
ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

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ONE

HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

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AN HISTORICAL DRAMA (S)

OF THE

WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

IN

4 ACTS

AND

20 TABLEAUX.

MONTREAL:

"LA MINERVE" STEAM PRESSES, 212 & 214, NOTRE DAME STREET,

1876

List of Characters

MADISON,	DUMAS,
ANDRE,	BARBER,
PARKER,	GREENE,
CHAMBERS,	KNOX,
ARNOLD,	FRANK,
WASHINGTON,	SOLDIER,
LAFAYETTE,	MAGISTRATE,
CLINTON,	PAULDING AND SKINNERS,
HAMILTON,	COW-BOYS,
McHENRY,	FOOTMAN, (Negro)
VARICK,	NELLY,
TALMADGE	EVA,
ROCHAMBEAU,	MADAM ARNOLD,
BARON DE VIOMESNIL,	SUZAN,
MARQUIS DE ST. SIMON,	CHAMBER MAID.

ENGLISH, FRENCH AND AMERICAN OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS,
LADIES, PEOPLE.

ACT I.

TABLEAU FIRST.

(A door in the background opening on a corridor. Door overlooking a garden which surrounds the house.

The scene is at New York in August 1780. Mr. Parker, a wealthy ship builder, alone in his study, reading a royalist newspaper. Furniture of the period. A harpsicord).

SCENE FIRST.

PARKER.

Georgia reconquered, the two Carolinas in the power of the royalists, the rebels beaten at Savannah, Charleston and Camden..... evidently the cause of Independence is ruined. True, the arrival of a French squadron is announced, but it is too late..... However, should the war continue, so much the better for me. Whilst others are fighting, I am making money. To no one is the war more profitable than it is to myself.

SCENE II.

(Enter Parker's two daughters, NELLY and EVA)

PARKER.

(Accosting them). How charming you are, my dears! You look like brides!

NELLY.

Why do you speak thus, father? You know very well that we have no chance of getting married so long as the war lasts.

PARKER.

That may be true so far as Eva is concerned, but, Nelly, what prevents you marrying Chambers, one of the most eligible men of New-York, an army contractor, a young fellow full of promise who has just cleared £10,000 by his last contract? Nelly, you can hardly bestow a thought on sergeant Henry, a young enthusiast who dreams of nothing but

glory and independence, and who fancies that the only avenue of success in the world, especially in America, lies in notions and sentimentality. What we want in this country are practical men, business men like Chambers.

NELLY.

Mr. Chambers is perhaps too much a man of business. I do not like men who see nothing beyond money in this world, and for whom every thing is mere merchandise.

PARKER.

Oh, you prefer people who have always fine phrases on their lips, and no money in their pockets, like that Henry of yours.

NELLY.

This love for Henry, why, father, you forget that you yourself helped to kindle it in my breast. Were you not in the habit of bestowing the highest broker letter praise on his talents and character?

PARKER.

Yes, but then Henry was a business youth, an employee in whom I had the greatest confidence. I should have made his fortune if he had remained with me. But no, he must be carried away by the fine speeches of the Washingtons, the Franklins, the Adams, the Jeffersons, dreamers who turn all heads with their high-sounding words about liberty, patriotism and independence. To day he is a soldier, a sergeant in the rebel army..... A fine position !

NELLY.

In the first place, father, he is no longer sergeant ; he has been promoted for his good conduct to the rank of Captain. And then Major Andre, whom you like so much and would gladly accept as a son in law, is he not also a soldier?

PARKER.

True, but the cases are very different. Major Andre is on the right side, the side which opens an avenue to fortune, the side which is bound to triumph. After the war, he will be a Colonel, perhaps a General, whereas when the rebels

are overwhelmed, their leaders imprisoned and shot, what will become of your Captain Henry? (*Turning to Eva*) Come, Eva, you are silent; your appear sad. Don't you think as I do?

EVA.

Yes, father, I am sad, though I have no reason to be so, as the one I love is agreeable to you. But somehow or other, I cannot resist a feeling of despondency which has weighed me down for several days. I have terrible presentiments. I am as under the influence of a nightmare.

PARKER.

Girlish follies! Ephemeral shadows which the arrival of of the handsome Major will suddenly dissipate. In the meantime, answer my question. Do you share my opinion in regard to Nelly's love for that poor fellow Henry?

EVA.

If you insist upon an answer, papa, I will say that, in Nelly's place, I should do as she has done. And as to the chivalrous sentiments and enthusiastic ideas with which you reproach Henry, I cannot condemn them, because Major Andre is precisely one of those superior men who follow only the noblest impulses and sacrifice everything to the cause which they have embraced.

PARKER.

Ho! Ho! Fallen from Scylla into Charydis! Even Eva, whom I thought so wise and reasonable, lapsing into sentiment!

NELLY.

(*Approaching her father*) Now, do not get angry, dear father, but it is time I should tell you that my poor Henry—so distasteful to you—will come here this evening. Having been made a prisoner, he was exchanged to day for a royalist officer. Before starting for West Point, he desires to pay his respects to us. I hope, dearest papa, (*kissing him*) that, for my sake, you will be kind to him.

PARKER.

Yes, yes, my love. But is not Major Andre coming to spend the evening here? How will the two get along together?

EVA.

Never fear, they will understand each other ; they are two noble spirits.

SCENE III.

(Servant opens interior door in background. Enter Major Andre and Chambers.)

PARKER.

Gentlemen, you never came more opportunely. I was engaged in a discussion with my daughters which threatened to become serious. Major, here is a young lady *(pointing to Eva)* who is slightly affected with low spirits. I leave her in your hands, Major ; you, who know so many things, no doubt are an adept in medicine.

ANDRE.

(To Eva). I wish, Miss Eva, that I had the skill with which Mr. Parker credits me, that I might exercise it on so precious a subject as yourself, but, alas ! I fear that this is a case of heart-ache requiring the treatment of a better physician than myself.

EVA.

I must reproach my father with having committed an indiscretion. Papa, I will never tell you anything again.

ANDRE.

Why, Miss Eva, do you reproach your father for treating me as a friend of the family ? Excuse me, but I think he set you an example which you might follow.

EVA.

Very well !....All I told my father was that I have been sad for some time back and under the influence of dark presentiments. Is that worth talking about ?

ANDRE.

Certainly it is, Miss Eva. Everything that mars your happiness interests those who love you. Besides I am of those who believe in female presentiments. I believe that woman, through her native sense of delicacy and the perfection of her

physical and mental gifts, can pierce the veil of the future, and see things which are invisible to man. But we had better not discuss this interesting question just now. Tell us rather, Miss Eva, what these unpleasant forebodings may be.

EVA.

You will learn them later, Major.

CHAMBERS.

(Who had drawn near Nelly on his arrival and had vainly attempted to engage her attention).

Mr. Parker, you speak of the sadness of Miss Eva, but it appears to me that Miss Nelly is not much better. I never saw her so preoccupied, so distracted.

PARKER.

The truth is that if Eva is low spirited, Nelly has an ailment which is about as bad. She has deep sympathies for the rebels.

CHAMBERS.

Perhaps for *a* rebel, instead of the rebels.

NELLY.

Singular or plural, the word "rebel" does not frighten me.

PARKER.

(In a low voice).

I hear a knock. The man himself is coming.

SCENE IV.

(Footman ushers in Capt. Henry Madison. He bows to Mr. Parker, and his daughters and Chambers. Nelly introduces him to Major Andre who shows surprise on seeing him and hearing his name).

MADISON.

It is really I, Major, the prisoner of yesterday who takes advantage of his liberty to salute these ladies before his departure for West Point.

ANDRE.

I am happy to make your acquaintance, Sir. If you became

our prisoner, it was through no fault of yours. You did your best to taste of our bullets.

MADISON.

Believe me, Major, I feel flattered by praise coming from one of the bravest and most distinguished officer of the King's army.

CHAMBERS.

How amusing to hear compliments bandied between men who may perhaps kill each other to morrow.

(While Chambers speaks these words, Madison sits down at Nelly's side at her invitation. Major Andre walks with Eva toward the window which looks into the garden. Chambers, visibly annoyed, is next to Parker.)

NELLY.

Do you know, Mr. Madison, that it is a long time since we had the pleasure of seeing you? But we have heard of you. You have been made Captain and it seems the honor is not undeserved; you have been distinguishing yourself, and even exposing yourself too much.

CHAMBERS.

That is wrong, Mr. Madison. If you got killed, I know some persons who would be inconsolable for your loss.

MADISON.

Really, Mr. Chambers? And you are doubtless of the number. In that case, I will take care of myself, as I should be loath to cause you any distress.

CHAMBERS.

I am sure of it.

NELLY *(to Chambers)*.

How your mind is turned to pleasantry this evening, Sir. Perhaps you are even ironical?

CHAMBERS.

Are not these war times?

MADISON.

Yes, every one fights after his own fashion. (*Chambers bites his lips*).

NELLY.

Is it true, Mr. Madison, that you are to leave us so soon — perhaps to morrow morning ?

MADISON.

Duty forces me to go.

CHAMBERS.

Instead of wandering on the banks of the Hudson, why does not Mr. Washington establish his quarters in New-York ? We should thus have the pleasure of seeing you oftener.

MADISON.

We wait till the British army comes to West Point. As your profession obliges you to follow the army, we should then be sure to meet.

CHAMBERS (*ironically*).

I should fear to be made prisoner.

MADISON.

Oh ! fear nothing. We never take the trouble of capturing non-combatants.

PARKER.

There is a rumor that the colonial army is in want of everything and badly demoralized. Also that Washington himself despairs of being able to continue the war. Of course the story is groundless ?

CHAMBERS.

I imagine that if the continentals had the tea which they threw overboard in Boston harbor, they would make a better use of it.

MADISON.

And I fancy that, if the thing were to be done over again, the British would be more accomodating in delivering the

tea to the inhabitants of Boston. (*Turning to Mr. Parker*) I beg your pardon, Mr. Parker, for not answering your questions sooner.

NELLY.

It was not your fault, Sir.

MADISON.

It is true, Mr. Parker, that our army has suffered much and still suffers. It is in want of clothing, shoes and often of bread, but its patriotism and courage are always the same, and to support its privations, it has the example of its illustrious chief. The assistance just received from France has naturally increased our confidence in the success of our cause.

CHAMBERS.

It is a queer patriotism which invokes the help of foreign nations.

MADISON.

The cause of the thirteen colonies is the cause of every nation which loves justice and liberty.

(During this conversation, Major Andre has been busy showing Eva sheets of music and specimens of drawing. Overhearing the last word, he advances with Eva and says to her aside).

I believe it is as well to turn the tide of conversation.

(To Madison) Captain, what do you think of this portrait? Miss Eva protests that it flatters the original. What do you say?

MADISON.

Why, it is the portrait of Miss Eva herself. It could by no possibility be finer than the original, but it is a striking likeness.

(Andre shows it around). Madison continues :—

MADISON.

But what distinguished artist painted this?

EVA.

Major Andre himself.

MADISON.

I knew, Major, that you were one of the most remarkable officers of the Royal army and an excellent poet. Now I see that you are an artist as well. You have then all the talents, all the gifts of nature ?

EVA.

Yes, every talent, every gift, except one.....

ANDRE.

Which is that ?

EVA.

Constancy. (*Andre laughs.*)

NELLY.

But you do not yet know all the Major's talents. He is a clever musician and sings very well.

MADISON.

This is really too much for a single man.

EVA.

(*Pleasantly*) Just what I say. Such a man is in danger of imagining that there is no woman worthy of him, at least no woman in America.

ANDRE.

You are always the same, Miss Eva ; you have the secret of sowing thorns among the flowers which you cast at our feet.

CHAMBERS.

Since we have been speaking of music, please induce Major Andre, Miss Eva, to sing us a song or military ballad which he has lately composed and of which I have heard some of our officers speak.

EVA.

What, Major ! You have written a song and told us nothing of it ? This is very unkind.

NELLY.

Yes, it is too bad, and if you wish to escape our wrath, you must sing it at once.

ANDRE.

I beg pardon, ladies, but I would hardly like to sing a song which might hurt the feelings of Captain Madison. It might hurt your own feelings, also, Miss Nelly, if report says true.

MADISON.

I promise you to regard only the merit of the composition and the talent with which it is sung.

PARKER.

We are here on neutral ground. We may sing and do what we like so long as we don't fight.

(Nelly and Eva prevail upon Andre, and he sings a royalist ballad of the period. Parker and Chambers applaud loudly.)

CHAMBERS.

What do you think of that, Captain Madison?

MADISON.

As well sung as it is well written.

ANDRE *(to Madison)*.

As we are on neutral ground, we should now have a song more suited to your ideas and feelings.

PARKER.

That is true, Captain Madison, you have the right of revenge. Take it.

(Madison might be made to sing a song in favor of independence, if the actor is equal to it. Otherwise Nelly might sing it. This part is left blank to be filled up according to circumstances. Indeed, if necessary, the two songs might be sung by Eva and Nelly respectively.)

CHAMBERS.

You said, a moment ago, Mr. Parker, that you had a warm

discussion with Misses Nelly and Eva. I am curious to know the subject of debate.

PARKER.

Yes, indeed, the combat was quite keen. Alone against two. I should have ended by capitulating.

CHAMBERS.

Like Lincoln at Savannah.

MADISON.

You forget an example of capitulation more celebrated still : that of Burgoyne at Saratoga.

ANDRE.

Gentlemen, you overlook the fact that the cases are far different. Who would refuse to surrender to such amiable persons as these ladies ?

EVA.

Always gallant, Major.

ANDRE.

We must not stray from the point. We have asked Mr. Parker the subject of discussion between the young ladies and himself. Let him speak.

CHAMBERS AND MADISON.

Come, Mr. Parker, come.

PARKER.

Gentlemen, I don't care to be charged with indiscretion a second time. Address yourselves to Nelly. I give her leave to say everything.

NELLY.

You are all anxious ?..... I will satisfy you..... Eva and myself maintained that love and patriotism are two sacred sentiments which must pass before ambition and personal interest.

MADISON.

You will allow me to add, Miss Nelly, that, without love,

woman would be only a bundle of merchandise offered to the highest bidder, and without patriotism, nations would be only flocks of vile slaves bending under the iron rod of the despot.

ANDRE.

We are all of the same opinion, are we not, Mr. Parker?

PARKER

(*Embarrassed*). No doubt, Major..... if you say so.

MADISON.

And such is also your opinion, Mr. Chambers?

CHAMBERS.

(*Stung*). Certainly, but it must be said that the world is full of men who abuse the love of woman and the patriotism of nations. For instance, it is by trading on the sentiments, or more properly, the prejudices of the Colonies, that certain men have driven them into a senseless and disastrous rebellion.

MADISON.

(*With animation*). There is no doubt that the world is filled with men who abuse the noble sentiments of women and of nations for the base purpose of their personal aggrandizement, but they have not abused the prejudices of the people of the Colonies who have appealed to all that is greatest and noblest in the soul of man. They have set down the principles and motives which animated them in a document destined to be the political code of civilized nations. In maintaining the prerogative of the people to make their own laws, pay only the taxes to which they consent, combat and overturn an arbitrary government, they have laid down principles which shall be the foundation of future constitutions and the seed of liberty throughout the world. You, gentlemen, who admire only what comes from Britain, call to mind the words of the great Chatham regarding the authors of our Declaration of Independence.

“History, my Lords, has always been my favorite study. Proud of being an Englishman, I have made it my pleasure and business to feed my intelligence upon the great examples of Greece and Rome. Well, I declare that in

“those classic lands of liberty, I read of no people, no senate, whose conduct appears to me nobler and firmer than that of the Congress at Philadelphia. Blind Ministers! Do you not see that America has its Sydneys? The spirit of opposition which animates it to day is the same which inspired our ancestors when they offered resistance to arbitrary imposts and when, in ages gone by, they consecrated the principle that no subject of Great-Britain can be taxed against his consent.”

With regard to the misfortunes of the war, which we speak of, the responsibility must rest upon those who provoked it, and in any case, liberty is always worth the price which it may cost.

ANDRE.

Very well, Captain, you speak as well as you fight. You are a dangerous man. The next time you are taken prisoner, you will not be released.

MADISON.

I will take care then not to be captured again.

ANDRE.

The next time, we shall do you the honor of seeking you on your ground, even at West Point.

MADISON.

You forget that West Point is guarded by Arnold and protected by Washington.

ANDRE.

So much the more reason to go there.

PARKER.

Ah! really, Major Andre, you make me laugh. It would be very amusing if this thing happened.

CHAMBERS.

It is only natural that the matter should end thus. The insurgents have a General who appears to rely for success rather upon Providence than on his military abilities or the valor of his army. It would appear that he expects a miracle from Heaven in his favor.

MADISON.

I did not know, until now, how far I should treat seriously a man who knows so well how to use the war to enrich and amuse himself, while others are stirring and shedding their blood for the cause which they have espoused. But I cannot allow him to insult, in my presence, the great man whom my country has placed at the head of its armies, or to turn into ridicule the sentiments of honor and piety which are his glory. Yes! the man who, for the past five years, with a few regiments of improvised militia, badly clad, poorly fed, has withstood the formidable armies of Great Britain, has won the brilliant victories of Boston, Trenton and Monmouth, has borne innumerable reverses without flinching,—that man has reason to believe that Heaven is with the nations struggling for their liberty.

PARKER.

Come, Gentlemen, let us be calm. We are three against one, we can afford to be generous.

MADISON.

Thank you, Mr. Parker, for your good intentions, but this is not the first time that the rebels, as Mr. Chambers calls them, have fought one against three.

NELLY.

You are not alone. I can not help admiring the noble, generous sentiments which you have just expressed

CHAMBERS.

Capital! Now even the women are having their heads turned by this fine talk of rebels.

NELLY.

And why should women remain strangers to what is going on around them? Why should they not have patriotism as well as men? Is the noblest of all feelings out of place in a woman's heart? The women of South Carolina, at this moment defending their heartstones with arms in their hands, set examples of heroism which do honor to our sex, and whoever does not appreciate these acts of devotion is much to be pitied indeed.

MADISON (*excitedly*).

Thanks, thanks, Miss Nelly, for your generous words.

CHAMBERS (*rising in vexation and taking his hat*).

I understand, miss, that I am out of place here.

PARKER (*to Chambers retiring*).

What? you will not leave us Mr. Chambers, for such a trifle.

(*Chambers exit*).

PARKER.

This is just what happens when women meddle in matters which do not concern them. What do you say, Major?

ANDRE.

I think that Miss Nelly has nothing to reproach herself with. She was provoked by Mr. Chambers, and had a right to reply as she did.

MADISON.

I regret, Mr. Parker, that I was the involuntary cause of what has happened. But it was hard for me to allow that cause to be insulted for which I expose my life every day.

ANDRE.

Well said. I am bound to admire in general the sentiments which you have expressed.

PARKER.

Well, well. I am out of my depth.

(*Madison rises to leave. Andre approaches Parker*).

ANDRE (*in a low voice*).

This man cannot be won to our cause, but is there not at least some means of inducing him to remain here? He is a valuable man.

PARKER.

(Surprised, but seeing that Andre is serious, exclaims).

I will try. *(To Madison leaving)* Captain Madison, I wish to have a word with you. *(Madison comes back.)*

ANDRE.

Will the ladies take a turn in the garden ?

NELLY AND EVA.

With pleasure. The weather is so fine ! *(Exeunt).*

SCENE V.

(Parker and Madison alone).

PARKER.

You are aware, Henry, that I have always esteemed you, and that I did all I could to keep you with me, and thus prevent you from plunging headlong into adventures which would destroy your future. I should have been happy to take you in as my partner and even accept you as my son-in-law. You renounced the prospects I offered to embrace a hopeless cause. I have been forced to cast my eyes elsewhere. I thought I could find in Mr. Chambers the man to suit me.....

MADISON.

At the risk of being suspected of jealousy, I will take the liberty to say, Mr. Parker, that your choice appears to me an unfortunate one, and I would advise you to reflect before confiding to him your fortune and the happiness of your daughter.

PARKER.

He is a business man ; but let us drop this point. Listen to me. I am prepared still to do for you what I originally intended. You have already done enough for the cause of your choice. Give up war, remain with me, you will be my partner and son-in-law.

MADISON.

Thanks, a thousand thanks for your generous offer, but I

cannot accept it under the circumstances. It would be treason to my country.

PARKER.

Reflect well. It is a fortune that you refuse.

MADISON.

I know it.

PARKER.

It is your happiness, and that of Nelly (*Madison's face grows dark, he rises agitated and nervous.*)

MADISON.

My happiness ! The happiness of Nelly ! What you tell me is cruel Mr. Parker..... but it is impossible..... impossible..... Duty before everything..... Miss Nelly will appreciate the motives of my refusal.

PARKER.

Is this your last word ?

MADISON.

Yes, Sir.

PARKER.

You understand, Mr. Madison, that too intimate relations with my family might be awkward in future.

MADISON.

I will respect your wishes, Mr. Parker, the future will determine which of us was right. But have a care, Sir, that you do not learn at your own expense that it is less dangerous to confide the honor and the interest of one's family to men of conviction and devotedness than to such faithless, heartless men as sacrifice everything to their own selfish ends.

PARKER.

Thanks for the lesson, Mr. Madison, I shall try not to forget it.

(*Nelly enters followed by Eva and Andre.*)

NELLY.

What does this mean ?

PARKER.

It means that Mr. Madison has shown me once more that he is prepared to sacrifice everything, his future, his fortune, and even his love for you, to that chimera of Independence which has turned his brain.

NELLY, (*With spirit*).

My dear father, however much I may regret expressing sentiments and ideas disagreeable to you, I am bound to tell you that I approve Mr. Madison in his refusal to abandon the cause of his choice. At such epochs as these, the true man owes every thing to the flag of his country. I have read history sufficiently and reflected enough to be convinced, with Mr. Madison, that nothing great or lasting is accomplished in this world except by self-sacrifice, and that devotion alone can give birth to liberty. And at the sight of the noble foreigners who cross the sea to offer their lives and fortunes to the sacred cause of Independence, how could the sons of America remain cold and indifferent? Must not the example of the Marquis de Lafayette and his generous wife kindle the fire of patriotism in the heart of the American people? If such examples remained fruitless, it would be a humiliating sign that noble sentiments and lofty associations cannot take root on this soil, that the people of the Colonies are no better than slaves. But because I see that the chiefs of this nation have feelings worthy of the republicains of old times, because they have such a leader as General Washington and such officers as Mr. Madison, I believe that they will achieve their independence. (*Parker astounded. Andre listens admiringly*).

MADISON.

(*Transported with excitement and retiring*) And I will add that the nation which has such women as you, Miss Nelly, cannot be a people of bondsmen, because such women oblige men to be heroes in order to deserve their esteem and love. Mr. Parker, I forgive the rude language you have used toward me. The house where I have heard such a splendid defence will always be sacred to me.

ANDRE.

Captain, your hand! (*They shake hands heartily Exit Madison*). If the continental army has many more such men, we will never conquer it.

SCENE VI.

PARKER.

Major, I must confess that I do not understand you. Listening to you, one would be tempted at times to take you for a rebel.

ANDRE.

No, sir, but my devotion to Britain, in whose service I have spent several years, is no reason why I should forget that I was born in Switzerland, a country where liberty is worshipped. Besides, there are men whose opinions we cannot help respecting, even when we do not share them.

NELLY.

Major, you love whatever is noble and generous.

EVA.

I was about to say the same thing.

ANDRE.

Thank you, ladies, but you flatter me in trying to make me believe that I resemble you in this respect. (*Looks at his watch*). I think it is time for me to withdraw. (*Take his hat*).

PARKER.

Major, you cannot go with taking a glass of wine with us. Please step the next room. (*Exeunt*).

TABLEAU II.

South shore of the Hudson in neighborhood of Dobb's Ferry. Public road. Four Cow-boys lying down on the side of the road and smoking. They wear green coats.

SCENE I.

1st cow-boy (*older and having authority over the rest*).

It is here that our Captain told us to station ourselves and wait. We have seen nothing yet, but patience, boys, we shall have a good time from all appearances.

2ND COW-BOY.

What makes you say that?

1ST COW-BOY.

Because the Captain gave that order after a secret conversation with a gentleman from New-York who appeared to have a well lined pocket. He put a pile of money into the Captain's hand and I heard him say: "It will not be all, Captain, if this matter turns out right." The gentleman started off at full gallop, and the Captain, coming over to me, said: "John, choose three of our best men and take your stand on the highway near the road leading to Dobb's Ferry. A rebel officer, in citizen's clothes, will soon pass there. You will arrest him and all you find upon his person will be yours."

2nd cow-BOY.

This may not turn out to be much, because generally the rebels have only their skin and bones.

1st cow-BOY.

Stop a bit. The Captain added that we should each get £10 sterling.

The 3rd cow-BOY.

Ah ! that looks better.

2nd cow-BOY.

But what shall we do with that rebel ?

1st cow-BOY.

Whatever we like.

2nd cow-BOY.

Will he be armed ?

1st cow-BOY.

Likely not, but the Captain said that the four of us would not be too many for him.

2nd cow-BOY.

It is well to be on our guard. Some of these rebels are stout fellows.

1ST COW-BOY (*listening to a noise*).

This is he perhaps. Attention, boys.

(*Enter Madison on foot apparently looking for the road. He sees the Cow-boys*).

MADISON.

Here fellows what is the way to Dobb's Ferry.

1ST COW-BOY (*pointing west*).

This way.

(*Madison advances. So soon as his back is turned the four men spring upon him. A tussle. Madison succeeds in freeing himself. Presenting his passport to the first Cow-boy.*)

MADISON.

Here, read this pass from General Clinton and let me go on my way. Otherwise you will be severely punished.

1ST COW-BOY (*reads*).

Yes. This is a pass from General Clinton (*he is embarrassed and shows the paper to his companions*).

(*Aside*). I did not expect this. We had better await the return of the Captain.

(*Loud to Madison*). You will remain with us till our Captain returns.

MADISON.

Is that the way you respect the order of General Clinton?

1ST COW-BOY.

We have no other General than our Captain. Boys, tie this gentleman to a tree. Don't mind. If he stirs, he is a dead man.

(*He points his musket to Madison's breast. The latter seeing that resistance is useless, allows his hands to be tied behind his back and attached to a tree, a few yards from the road. The first Cow-boy takes away his watch and all the money he has about him.*)

1ST COW-BOY.

You were not wrong, Bill, when you said that those rebels had empty purses. This was hardly worth the search.

BILL, 2ND COW-BOY.

We have more chance with the British officers.

1ST COW-BOY.

Yes, but there is danger of hanging, if caught.

MADISON.

A rebel officer with a pass from the military authorities is as inviolable as a British officer.

1ST COW-BOY.

We'll see about that. Let us have a bite, boys, before the Captain comes. (*They sit down in a circle and help themselves out of a bag of meat and bread*). As the day promises to be good, we shall indulge in a small glass of rum, boys.

THE COW-BOYS.

All right, all right. (*The first Cow-boy pours out rum in a glass which is passed around*).

MADISON.

(*Makes efforts to release himself. He is seated, almost lying down. Addresses the 1st Cow-boy*). You are Cow-boys, if I mistake not?

1ST. COW-BOY.

Yes, Captain, Colonel, General, whatever you are..... Now I think of it, boys, we have not been polite. We ought to drink the health of this gentleman. It is the best we could do to soothe him, for he appears ill at ease.

COW-BOYS.

(*Laughing*) Here goes! Here goes! (*They drink*).

MADISON.

Thank you, my friends, you are very kind. But say, are you in the habit of stopping here?

1ST. COW-BOY.

(*To his companions*). This is an odd fish, (*aloud*) No, Gene-

ral, only as we knew you were coming this way, we wished to have the honor of receiving you. (*A horse laugh from all the Cow-boys*).

MADISON.

(*Continuing to make efforts to release himself*). It seems I have friends in New York who take a great interest in me, since they put themselves to the trouble of giving notice of my coming to such men as you.

1ST. COW-BOY.

(*To his friends*). There is some fun in this General. (They all laugh. (*aloud to Madison*)). Well, sir, you must have rich friends in New York, because if you had as much money as the gentleman who came to see our captain about you this morning, it would have been worth our while to arrest you.

MADISON. (*Aside*.)

I am sure it is he.

1ST. COW-BOY.

What? (*Aside*.) I am talking too much. That comes of drinking.

(*Aloud*). See here, Captain, or General, you are too inquisitive. I won't answer any more of your questions.

MADISON.

(*Making an effort as if to put himself more at his ease*.)

I say, boys, the royalists are lucky in having such devoted partisans as you.

COWBOY.

Yes, but that does not prevent us from being fleeced sometimes when the chase after rebels is bad and the game is as lean as in your case, General.

(*The Cow-boys laugh*.)

COW-BOY.

John, to your health, you have too much sense for one man.

(At the moment that they reach the cup to their lips, Madison make a supreme effort, unties himself, seizes the two muskets nearest him, plants his foot upon one, and with the other fires point blank at the chief who falls. He then takes the other and fires on a second Cowboy who drops as he is about to fire at him. Next grasping the weapon by the butt, he attacks the two remainder, felling one to the earth. Just then a dozen of Cow-boys, attracted by the shots, come up and attempt to seize Madison who makes a ring around him by brandishing the carbine. Arrival of a dozen of american militia men who fire on the Cow-boys and cry "HURRAH FOR MADISON." Some of the Cow-boys fall, others flee. Madison takes his watch and money from the pocket of the dead Cow-boy, while the militia acclaims him.

ACT II.

TABLEAU III.

SCENE I.

(West bank of the Hudson, near West Point. Arnold on the shore. Boat with four men pulling towards him two of the four rowing. (Moonlight).)

ANDRE.

(He wore, according to Irving, a round hat, a blue surtout, a crimson close-bodied coat, the button hole worked with gold, a nankeen vest, small clothes and boots. He got out of the boat with his companion who points out Arnold and then withdraws).

I have the honor of addressing General Arnold ?

ARNOLD.

Yes, Major. Here you are at length (extending his hand). As the night is advanced, I think it will be best to go to my friend's, Mr. Smith, to hold our conference.

ANDRE.

For that purpose, General, I should have to penetrate the American lines. I hardly think I ought to do so.

ARNOLD.

I fear there is no alternative, Major. We run the risk of

being surprised here. Horses are in waiting. Come. (*He goes, followed by Andre who is visibly preoccupied*).

ANDRE. (*Aside*.)

Well, well, there is no backing down now.

TABLEAU IV.

(*Smith's house. Arnold and Andre seated at a table in a private room, busy discussing*).

SCENE I.

(*Arnold thoughtful and rising suddenly*).

ARNOLD.

Do you know that I never till now understood the extent of the service I am about to render Great Britain? The capture of West Point is the ruin of the cause of Independence, the death-blow of the war. For that cause, I have fought, I have suffered, I have been wounded

ANDRE.

Yes, but the leaders of that cause have had scant recognition of the merit of the bravest and boldest of its Generals, the hero of Saratoga.

ARNOLD.

It is true, they have dragged me before a court martial, have submitted me to the humiliation of a public censure. But what warrant have I that the British government will better appreciate the service which I am about to render them?

ANDRE.

You have been in communication with Sir Henry Clinton for nearly a year. In all that time have you had any fault to find with him?

ARNOLD.

No.

ANDRE.

Sir Henry is well aware that you cannot hold in the British army a position inferior to that which you have in

the Continental forces. He authorizes me to offer you the rank of Brigadier General. And to enable you to fulfil the obligations contracted by you in the insurgent service, he further offers you £10000. Is that sufficient?

ARNOLD.

Your word of honor, Major?

ANDRE.

My word of honor.

ARNOLD.

Very well. Let us come to business. You affirm that Sir Henry Clinton is ready for action?

ANDRE.

Yes, General. The troops have embarked; the vessels are manned. Admiral Rodney only awaits the signal.

ARNOLD.

That is right. On my part everything is ready, everything foreseen. Sir Henry Clinton will find in these papers (*placing a bundle of papers on the table*) all the information that he needs, the plan of West Point, the roll of the garrison, the points to be attacked. If he chooses, General Clinton can unfurl the British flag over West Point, on Saturday night.

ANDRE.

(*Taking the papers*). I do not think I ought to carry these papers about me, General. If I should be arrested or captured, they would betray me.

ARNOLD.

No, no. General Clinton must necessarily read them. Secrete them in your boot and have no fear.

ANDRE.

An excellent idea. And now I must go. It is near daylight and I have no time to lose.

ARNOLD.

Very true (*He rings and Smith comes in*). Mr. Smith, Mr.

Anderson wishes to return. Please conduct him at once on board the Vulture.

SMITH.

But you must know, General, that the Vulture has been obliged to drop down the river, and that Mr. Anderson will have to return to New York by land. It is rather more dangerous.

ANDRE.

No matter. I cannot remain here.

ARNOLD.

Mr. Smith, you must provide Mr. Anderson with a complete disguise, and you will accompany him until he is in safety.

SMITH.

It shall be done, General.

ARNOLD.

(Writing). Mr. Anderson, here is your pass.

ANDRE.

Mr. Smith, I am at your service (*Shaking hands with Arnold*) good night, General.

ARNOLD.

Happy journey to you.

ARNOLD.

(Gloomy). It is done. The die is cast. Within two days, my vengeance will be accomplished, my ambition fulfilled. Two days! It is a long time when fortune, ambition, life and the fate of a country depends upon the accomplishment of the event that is expected. I never felt so ill at ease. It seems to me that I am dreaming, that I have the nightmare..... What will the world say?... But bosh, why these foolish thoughts... Success justifies everything.... Let us take the means to succeed. I will go and prepare everything at Robinson's house.

TABLEAU IV.

SCENE I.

Highway between Albany and New-York, near Tarrytown on the east bank of the Hudson. Three Americans belonging to the AMERICAN SKINNERS are playing cards on the roadside in the brushwood.

CHIEF.

No luck to day. If we fell in with some royalist or other, I pity him (*Listens*). Is not that the sound of horse's hoofs ?..... Yes, some one is coming. Let us get ready. (*Takes his gun and moves toward the road. Major Andre appears on horseback. Paulding goes in front of the horse, stops him and pointing his musket to Andre's breast, he says :*

PAULDING.

Which way are you going ?

ANDRE.

Gentlemen, I hope you belong to our party.

PAULDING.

Which party ?

ANDRE.

The lower party (*Pointing towards New-York*).

PAULDING.

Yes.

ANDRE.

Well, Gentlemen, I am a British officer, on particular business, and I hope you will not detain me a minute.

PAULDING.

Very well, but you must dismount at once (*Andre produces his pass and, showing it to Paulding and companions*), says:—

ANDRE.

You see that you would do wrong to interrupt the General's business by arresting me.

(*Looking at the pass, Paulding and partners pretend to retire, and Andre urges his horse forward.*)

PAULDING (*looking at him*).

I have my suspicions about this man. I can't let him go that way. (*He advances and stops the horse*). I hope, sir, you will not be offended. We do not mean to take any thing from you. There are many bad people going along the road. Perhaps you may be one of them. Have you some letters about you?

ANDRE.

No.

PAULDING.

Come with us. We must see if there is nothing wrong. (*They take him to the woods, search him and find nothing. They pretend to allow him to go, but Paulding adds.*) Please take off your boots.

ANDRE.

What's the use?

(*Paulding draws one of Andre's boots.*)

PAULDING.

Nothing. Let us see the other. (*Draws other boot and passes hand under Andre's foot*). There is something here. (*Draws the sock and papers fall out, Paulding picks them up*). A plan of West Point, despatches addressed to General Clinton. This is a spy.

ANDRE.

Gentlemen, I will give you my watch and all the money I have on me, if you will let me continue on my way.

ONE OF MEN.

Won't you give more than that?

ANDRE.

Yes. Name the sum. One of you will go to New York for the money and I will remain here till his return.

PAULDING.

Not for ten thousand pounds! Our duty is to conduct you to Colonel Jamison who commands the nearest post. (*Exeunt*).

TABLEAU V.

SCENE I.

*Arnold in private room of his headquarters at Robinson's House.
Walks up and down excitedly.*

ARNOLD.

No news..... He must have reached New York before last night..... Yet Clinton does nothing What is going on? If he were arrested?..... I should not have given him those papers. Smith ought not to have left him.....Andre is just the man to be entrapped, he is too open hearted..... If he were captured For the first time in my life I tremble The thought overwhelms me..... But no, it is impossible..... It would be too terrible..... Washington and Lafayette will soon be here; come, let us put on a good face... Washington! What a triumph it would be for him if I did not succeed..... And what a disgrace for me..... (*knocking, Mrs. Arnold enters*).

SCENE II.

MRS. ARNOLD.

(*With letter in hand*). My dear Arnold, General Washington and General Lafayette write to say that I must not wait breakfast for them, as they will not be here till later in the day. They have sent their aides-de-camp, Colonels Hamilton and McHenry. (*Arnold distracted*). But what ails you, General? I have never seen you looking so anxious and absorbed.

ARNOLD.

(*Dissimulating*). Oh! it is nothing, nothing.

MRS. ARNOLD.

Well, breakfast is ready. Come.

TABLEAU VI.

SCENE I.

(*Breakfast, Arnold, wife, Hamilton and McHenry*).

ARNOLD.

(*To H. and M*) What keeps General Washington and Lafayette back?

HAMILTON.

The Commander-in-Chief is busy showing Generals Lafayette and Knox the works which he has set up at West Point.

ARNOLD

Does General Lafayette always advocate a descent on New York?

M^rHENRY.

Yes, especially since the arrival of the French troops, he is desirous of seeing them employed.

MRS. ARNOLD.

(*To H.*) Have you any intelligence of the interview between the Commander-in-Chief and General Rochambeau, and the other French officers?

HAMILTON.

Yes, Madam, the interview was most cordial and the course of action to be followed was decided upon. The French officers are delighted with General Washington. They assisted at a scene which convinced them of the great popularity of the Commander-in-Chief. Indeed, when the General came forth from the house at Hartford where the conference took place, a large crowd gathered and gave him an enthusiastic ovation. Men, women and children rushed forward to see him, to touch him even, and the universal cry was: "Hurrah for Washington," "Hurrah for the father of his country." Washington was profoundly moved, and turning towards the French officers, he exclaimed: "We may be beaten by the English, but see the army which they will never conquer."

ARNOLD.

(*Ill at ease.*) That was indeed well said.

M^rHENRY.

(*To Arnold.*) You doubtless know that, out of compliment to the French officers, the Commander-in-Chief has ordered our officers to wear hereafter the white and black cockade.

ARNOLD.

The arrival of the French seems to have made a great impression upon Washington.

HAMILTON.

Yes, General, he believes they will give us that superiority at sea which we have lacked till now and which has helped the British so much.

M^oHENRY.

He loves Lafayette more than ever, because it is really through him that we are in great part indebted for this French succor. And it is not only soldiers that we get, but money, clothing and shoes. What is not generally known is that the Marquis of Lafayette not only gives us the advantage of his military abilities and the example of his bravery, but he has already sacrificed a considerable portion of his own fortune to feed and clothe the corps which he commands.

ARNOLD.

(Distracted). That is noble.

HAMILTON.

We have contracted a debt towards General Lafayette which I hope we shall be able to discharge.

MRS. ARNOLD.

Tell me, Colonel, what sort of men are these French officers?

HAMILTON.

They are charming, Madam, and belong for the most part to distinguished families. I need not add that, being French, they are all gallant.

ARNOLD, *(affecting pleasantry).*

Don't speak too highly of these Frenchmen, gentlemen, for you might excite a curiosity in Mrs. Arnold which would make me jealous.

MRS. ARNOLD.

At the risk of encountering your jealousy, General, I will confess my extreme desire of meeting these French officers.

SCENE II.

(Enter sergeant with letter for Arnold.)

(Arnold opens and reads without betraying his emotion: rises.)

ARNOLD.

Gentlemen, I beg your pardon, but an important matter obliges me to start at once for West Point. Please excuse Mrs. Arnold also, for a moment. *(Exeunt both.)*

SCENE III.

(Hamilton and McHenry at table.)

HAMILTON.

What is the matter? What can call General Arnold away so suddenly to West Point? He must have received some important news. Otherwise he would have waited for the Commander-in-Chief.

McHENRY.

The British army is perhaps moving forward. Sir Henry Clinton may have made up his mind to attack West Point.

HAMILTON.

Yes. He seems to have seen harboring the project for some time back. Captain Madison told me yesterday that Major Andre had threatened to make him a prisoner at West Point. Andre perhaps spoke on information.

McHENRY.

Ah! You snatched Madison from the hands of the British?

HAMILTON.

Yes, but with some difficulty. The British were as anxious to keep him as I was to rescue him.

McHENRY.

What does he say about the Provost gaol and its keeper, the brutal Cunningham?

HAMILTON.

He is determined to die rather than again fall in the hands of that devil. But I have advised him not to expose himself so much in future. I do not believe that there is a bolder man in the army.

McHENRY.

And they say that his strength is equal to his valour.

HAMILTON.

He has just proved that. You may perhaps know that he was taken prisoner by a band of Cowboys, near Dobb's Ferry, and succeeded in escaping from them by flooring half a dozen of the brigands.

McHENRY.

Yes, I have heard about that. *(Enter Major Varick, Arnold's aide-de-camp. Hamilton and McHenry rise and greet him.)*

SCENE IV.

HAMILTON.

What news, Major?

VARICK.

News? That is just what I come to you for. How comes it that you are alone?

HAMILTON.

The Master and Mistress having left us, we have taken possession of the house.

VARICK.

I know that General Arnold is gone to West Point, but how is it that Mrs. Arnold is not here?

HAMILTON.

She was to have returned and finish her breakfast with us.

VARICK.

Wait a moment for me, if you please, I will try to see Mrs. Arnold. *(Exit.)*

SCENE V.

McHENRY (*to Hamilton*).

It is strange she does not return now the General is gone.

HAMILTON.

Perhaps her infant detains her. You know she is crazy about the child. (*Enter Varick much troubled*). What is it?

VARICK.

I found Mrs. Arnold insensible in her room. The maid who entered with me could give no explanations. I sent for the doctor.

HAMILTON.

Very strange. She was quite well when she left here with the General.

VARICK.

(*Moving about anxiously*.) I must go to see about this. (*To McHenry*.) will you come with me, Colonel?

McHENRY.

Certainly.

SCENE VI.

(*Hamilton rings. Enter waiter.*)

HAMILTON.

Clear the table. (*Waiter obeys. Hamilton walks about reflecting*.) It is astonishing. (*Enter Lieutenant Allen*.)

ALLEN.

Colonel, here are letters and papers for the Commander-in-Chief from Colonel Jameson.

HAMILTON.

Very well. Hand them to me. I will deliver them to the Commander-in-Chief, who will be here in a few moments. (*Exit Lieutenant, and Hamilton sits down at table.*)

HAMILTON.

Letters and papers from Jameson ! Something important must have happened..... I think I had better read them at once..... (*Unseals a letter and reads*)..... Major Andre arrested as a spy !..... Important papers found upon his person..... Let us see these papers, (*opens them*). What does it mean ? A plan of West Point..... A list of the garrison..... Information on the means of defence and attack..... (*Enter McHenry and Varick*).

SCENE VII.

VARICK.

No news ?

HAMILTON.

Gentlemen, please wait here an instant. I must go immediately and meet the Commander-in-Chief. I have just received momentous despatches. (*Exit*.)

VARICK.

More mystery. Colonel, there is something wrong. But I must return to poor Mrs. Arnold. (*Exit*.)

SCENE VIII.

(*Washington, Lafayette, Knox and Hamilton enter. Washington and Hamilton converse in low voice.*)

WASHINGTON.

(*Sitting down and speaks to Hamilton.*) Colonel, hand me these papers. (*Hamilton does so. Washington reads gloomily.*)

WASHINGTON (*Passing papers to Lafayette and Knox*).

Whom can we trust now ? (*To Hamilton*). There is no time to lose, Colonel. Order the immediate pursuit of General Arnold and fly to West Point and take every precaution to prevent a surprise there.

LAFAYETTE (*returning papers to Washington*).

Incredible ! infamous ! General, the cause for which we combat was never in greater danger. Your reliance upon Providence is not misplaced, for you are visibly protected.

This treason will give our enemies more disgrace than profit and cannot tarnish the fair fame of that army which for the past five years has been giving the world an example of disinterestedness and heroism.....

WASHINGTON.

Arnold had many faults, but I never suspected that he could betray his country. When called upon to censure him, I did so in the mildest terms possible and to encourage him in repairing his faults, I granted his every demand—a brigadier-generalship and the command of West Point. If I have erred, it is through excessive leniency towards him. Pride and covetousness have ruined him.

And who knows how far treason has penetrated our ranks ?

LAFAYETTE.

The American army can contain no other traitor like Arnold.

WASHINGTON.

I trust not, but we must be on our guard. I had forgotten. Where is Mrs. Arnold ? Does she know what has happened ?

SCENE IX.

HAMILTON.

Here is Major Varick who has just seen her. (*Enter Varick and salutes.*)

WASHINGTON.

How is Mrs. Arnold ?

VARICK.

Very poorly indeed, General. She has only this moment come to.

WASHINGTON.

Go and present her my respects, and tell her I will call on her if she desire it. (*Exit Varick.*) How could a man in Arnold's position betray his country ? How could he thus blast his name, his future and the happiness of his family ?..... It is a mystery to me. (*Enter Varick.*)

VARICK.

General, Mrs. Arnold is coming herself to see you ? Here she is. (*Enter Mrs. Arnold supported by her chamber maid.*)

SCENE X.

MRS. ARNOLD.

General, what is it you desire ? Do you come to take my child from me ? Am I not wretched enough already ?

WASHINGTON.

(*Taking her by the hand and making her sit down.*)

I appreciate your grief, Madam. I deplore the sad event which strikes you so cruelly and deprives us of one of our bravest officers, a brother-in-arms whom I loved. Be assured, Madam, that we will do all in our power to alleviate your misfortune.

MRS. ARNOLD.

You will not throw me into prison ! You will not separate me from my child ?

WASHINGTON.

Certainly not, Madam. When you wish to depart I will have escorted you as far as you like. God forbid that I should heighten the misfortune which overwhelms you.

MRS. ARNOLD (*weeping*).

Poor child ! what I should I do if it were taken from me ? Poor darling ! what will become of it. What a terrible future the imprudence of its father reserves for it ! I who built such beautiful projects in its behalf. Why was it born ? Better that it had never seen the light. ... But so long as I live, no one will take it from me. No, never. (*She rises*) General, you do not know what a mother can do to defend her child.

WASHINGTON.

Be calm, Madam, I pray you. What can I say to convince you of my sympathy and regard for you ?

MRS. ARNOLD (*sitting down again.*)

It is true, I talk wildly. I do not know what I am saying.... But, Arnold, my husband, where is he? What has become of him?

WASHINGTON.

He has probably gone to New York.

MRS. ARNOLD.

Oh! yes. I remember... we were at breakfast.... He received a letter.... He asked me to go to my room with him.... He told me he was obliged to start at once.... that his life hung upon one moment.... He kissed me.... And I remember nothing further (*she sobs*). General, you will not make him die.... you will let me see him again.... you will have mercy upon him.... you will take into account the services he has rendered his country.... He was so brave.... (*she weeps.*)

WASHINGTON.

Believe me, Madam, that I will be guided in my conduct towards him by no feeling of hate, but only by the interest of the country and the honor of the army.

(*Mrs. A. overcome, asks to retire. Exit supported by the maid.*)

WASHINGTON.

I do not like such painful scenes.

SCENE XI.

(*Enter Hamilton.*)

HAMILTON.

General, your orders have been carried out, but it was too late to overtake Arnold. On leaving here, he threw himself into a barge, was transported by rapid oar to the Vulture, and passed through our lines, waving a white handkerchief. He is now out of our reach.

WASHINGTON.

(*To Varick.*) Please go and tell Mrs. Arnold that, having done all I could to capture her husband and not having

succeeded, I have the pleasure of informing her that he is now in safety. You may stay with her and see that she receives all the attention which her sad state requires. (*Exit Verick.*)

HAMILTON.

General, Major Andre will soon be here. What are your orders in regard to him.

WASHINGTON.

Keep him under strict guard, and send him to the headquarters at Tappan. I will summon a court martial immediately.

HAMILTON.

I will confide him to Captain Madison. He is a thoroughly reliable man.

WASHINGTON.

Yes, he is. I know him. He will be responsible for Major Andre until his fate is decided. (*Exeunt all except Hamilton.*)

SCENE XII.

(*Enter Andre with Talmadge.*)

HAMILTON.

(*Giving his hand to Andre.*) I regret what has happened, Major.

ANDRE.

Thank you, Colonel, but I willed it.

SCENE XIII.

(*Enter Madison.*)

HAMILTON (*to Madison*).

Captain, the Commander in Chief has given orders that the prisoner be put under your care and conducted by your company to the headquarters at Tappan, there to be kept until further orders (*Andre and Madison look at each other and cannot repress a cry of surprise.*)

MADISON (*Holding out his hand*)

Major, you will believe me when I express my regret at being charged with a mission which I so little expected. Duty is often terribly exacting.

ANDRE.

Captain Madison, you have reason to be surprised, for this is very different from what I foretold you in New-York. But it is an honor to be guarded by such brave and loyal officers as Major Talmadge and yourself. *Exeunt Andre, Madison, Talmadge Enter Varick.*

SCENE.

(*Hamilton and Varick.*)

HAMILTON.

Is poor Mrs. Arnold any better?

VARICK (*Gloomily*).

Yes, a little.

HAMILTON.

So much the better. I feared that she might lose her reason.

VARICK.

Small wonder if she had. But tell me, Colonel, what does all this mean? I have my suspicions indeed, but they are so terrible that I dare not entertain them.

HAMILTON.

It is only too true. Arnold is a traitor.

VARICK (*Desperately*).

Arnold a traitor? What will become of us? What a disgrace!

HAMILTON.

Be calm, Major. We may thank Heaven that the conspiracy was discovered in time. Come with me to West Point, Major. You require a little distraction. (*Exeunt.*)

TABLEAU V.

(Headquarters at Tappan, Madison walking up and down musing.)

MADISON.

Poor Major Andre.....condemned to death.....And such a death... Martial law is inexorable.....So noble and so generous... Condemned to die like a vile murderer....Oh! why did I know him!.....Is it possible to see him, to approach him, without loving him?.....He does not know the kind of death awaiting him, or rather he will not believe it.....
(Enter a Sergeant.)

SCENE I.

SERGEANT.

Captain, some of the men have just arrested a woman who asks to be brought before you.

MADISON.

Send her in. *(Enter Eva Parker.)*

MADISON *(with surprise)*

It is not possible..... My eyes deceive me..... It is not Miss Eva?

EVA.

Yes, Sir, it is I. So soon as I learned that Major Andre had been captured, and that his life was in danger, I set out at once, travelling night and day, by land and water, being arrested and released several times until I reached here. But I have no time to relate all this. I come to you in order that you may procure me an interview with General Washington, and help me to save Major Andre.

MADISON.

But does your family know where you are, what dangers you are incurring?

EVA.

My father knows nothing, but Nelly knows all, and, instead of dissuading me, she said that, in my place, she would do the very same thing.

MADISON (*Deeply moved*).

Really, I do not know what to answer..... So much devotedness and imprudence quite upset me.

EVA.

Speak to me about Major Andre. How is he?..... What is to be his fate?

MADISON (*perplexed and hesitating*).

EVA (*continuing*).

Do not fear to tell me the truth. He is not already dead?

MADISON.

No. No. But he appeared before a court martial..... Confessed everything acknowledged that he had violated the laws of war, and has been condemned on his own confession.

EVA.

That is, condemned to death?

MADISON.

Alas !

EVA.

Captain, take me directly to the Commander-in-Chief.

MADISON.

I am expecting him here..... There he is.

SCENE II.

EVA (*throwing herself at the feet of Washington*).

General, I have come to see whether it is true that you are as generous, as they say. I come to ask the pardon of Major Andre.

WASHINGTON (*interrupting*).

Rise, Madam. Who are you? Where do you come from?
(*She rises*).

MADISON.

Her name is Miss Eva Parker. She is the daughter of one of the principal citizens of New York.

WASHINGTON.

I know the name. (*to Eva*) Dear lady, your devotion touches me. Your act is imprudent, but worthy of praise..... But what I can do?..... I can appreciate the sympathy which this young officer excites. I hear on all sides the most flattering praise of his character and mind. But Captain Madison must have informed you that he has just been condemned by a court martial on his own confession, and that he acknowledges the justice of the sentence.

EVA.

General, I do not know the laws of war. I admit, what I have often been told, that the British have themselves laid down the rules and precedents to be followed in such cases as this. All I know, and what ought to move you is that Major Andre is the victim of his generosity, and devotion to the cause which he has embraced and which he believes the right one. He is guilty only of having done his duty in obeying the orders of his superior officer.

WASHINGTON.

Unfortunately, dear lady, the law admits no exceptions. It defines and punishes an offence and applies it to all persons without distinction. I am more than ever interested in your noble client, but no one has yet shown me the means of saving him.

EVA.

There is but one voice among both the friends and adversaries of Major Andre to say that it is unfortunate he should be punished when the real culprit is at liberty.

WASHINGTON.

Your noble and judicious remarks, lady, have more weight with me than the threats of General Arnold and the rude conduct of those whom General Clinton has despatched here..... You say with reason that the great culprit is General Arnold Well, let him be surrendered and Major Andre is free.

(*Eva Looking up hopefully*) *Washington continues.* Do not rejoice prematurely, however. I am perhaps wrong to shed a ray of hope on your mind, because it is too late to employ the means which I suggest, and Sir Henry Clinton will not surrender Arnold.

MADISON.

Cannot Lord Clinton be sounded on that subject ?

WASHINGTON.

Yes provided nobody consider himself authorized to make such a proposition. But such a mission would require a man of character and intelligence.

EVA.

Oh, thanks, thanks, General. The man you look for is here. (*Pointing to Madison*).

WASHINGTON.

Will you go, Captain ?

MADISON.

I will, General. When shall I set out ?

WASHINGTON.

Go and get ready. To day is the 29th. You will have to be back here before noon of the 2nd October. Miss Parker will accompany you doubtless ?

EVA.

Yes, General, I will go to Sir Henry Clinton with Captain Madison and I will tell him that the only means of repairing the fault he committed in exposing the life of such a man as Major Andre is to accept your offer. If he refuses, on him will weigh the responsibility of the death of a man whom even his enemies will regret. General, before going, I have another favor to ask. Might I see Major Andre ?

WASHINGTON.

I regret, lady, that I cannot grant the request. I could not allow the interview without violating the strict orders which I have given, and the conditions which I have imposed upon

myself in this sad business. But Major Andre will be apprized of the noble steps you have taken in his behalf. Captain, go with Miss Parker to make your final preparations.

But I must give you a passport, and a letter for General Clinton about his last propositions (*The writes two papers and gives them to Madison*).

WASHINGTON.

I wish you both a good journey and a good success.

(*Exeunt Madison and Eva thanking Washington. Hamilton comes in*).

SCENE III.

WASHINGTON (*to Hamilton*.)

Happy to see you, colonel. What news at West Point?

HAMILTON.

Everything quiet. Lord Clinton has not moved and our army is full of spirit. The treason of Arnold has not produced such bad result as might have been feared and there is no other defection apparent in our ranks.

WASHINGTON.

Thank Heavens ! Colonel will you come with me to examine some works which I have ordered to be made? (*Exeunt*).

TABLEAU VI.

(*Clinton at headquarters, No. 3 Broadway, New York, with some of his principal officers. Paces up and down agitated*).

SCENE I.

CLINTON.

So, it is all over..... threats, prayers all in vain Poor Andre must die die the death of a spy..... No way of saving him Noble youth, whom I loved as a son..... My friendship and confidence have been fatal to him..... What deplorable termination of a project on which I had counted so much..... All seemed so well combined, so admirably

prepared..... I already fancied I saw the Royal standard waving over the forts on the Hudson..... What a triumph for me..... Now there remain only the shame of failure and the regret of having sent to death, to the scaffold, the best beloved of my officers, Andre who sacrificed himself to please me and serve the army..... Oh ! what would I not do to save him !

(*Enter sergeant giving letter to aide-de-camp who hands it to Clinton. Clinton reads.*)

CLINTON.

Show them in.

SCENE II.

(*Enter Madison and Eva.*)

MADISON. (*Handing message to Clinton.*)

Your Excellency, a message from General Washington.

CLINTON. (*He reads.*)

You are Captain Madison ?

MADISON.

Yes, Your Excellency.

CLINTON.

And you, Miss ? (*Looks with surprise.*) But I recognize you. You are Miss Parker.

EVA.

Yes, Sir Henry.

CLINTON, (*to Madison and Eva*)

Do you desire a private interview ?

MADISON.

If Your Excellency pleases. (*Officers retire.*)

CLINTON.

How come you, Miss Parker, to be in company with Captain Madison ?

EVA.

I come from Tappan, the headquarters of the continental army. I went there to prevent the sacrifice to barbarous customs of a man whom you esteem, whom everybody loves, and whose death would be a disgrace to all those responsible for it.

CLINTON.

You know, Miss Parker, that no one would regret the death of poor Andre more than I. You know also that I have done everything to save him. But up to the present all has been useless.

MADISON.

All of us, from the Commander-in-Chief down to the lowest soldier, desire the rescue of Major Andre, but we also all understand that the laws and customs of war, the honor and interest of our cause demand the punishment of a fault whose gravity Major Andre himself acknowledges. There is only one way of conciliating our sympathies for Major Andre with the exigencies of war. Having in our possession one of the authors of the conspiracy, we cannot release him except, perhaps, if the other and principal agent be surrendered to us.

CLINTON, (*impatient*).

Captain, you make an impossible demand. You speak of the laws and usages of war, and you would have me violate them by giving up General Arnold. My sympathies for Major Andre will not induce me to commit an act of baseness and cowardice.

EVA, (*very excitedly*).

General, there is no cowardice in repairing a fault, in taking the only means which remains to prevent a great injustice. If it is true, that the deed committed by the Major is so grave as to deserve death, you astonish me with your scruples, for after all it is you that is the real culprit, since it is you that took advantage of Major Andre's generosity and made him commit this act, since it is for your sake that he is exposed to die on the scaffold. You speak of cowardice but it seems to me that it would be less cowardly to deliver General Arnold into the hands of those whom he has betrayed,

for the purpose of saving Major Andre, than it was to have bought him and charging a man like Major Andre with a mission so repugnant to his lofty soul.

CLINTON.

Miss Parker, you will please withdraw, because I fear that my regard for your sex and your family would not suffice to retain on my lips words which I would regret to have uttered. To speak to me as you have done when I am racked and tortured with the regret that I cannot save the man whom I have so loved, whose devotion and affection I can never forget, oh ! it is cruel.... No. I cannot save him but I will avenge him. Every hair of his head will be paid for in blood. Ah ! you want the war of savages, war to the knife, pitiless, relentless ! Well, you shall have it, Captain, you shall have it.

MADISON (*with animation*).

General, this will be nothing new. The war of savages, war without truce or mercy, you have waged it against us this long time. Is it we who massacre defenceless women and children, who apply the torch to houses and harvest fields ? Is it under our flag that the tomahawk of the Iroquois flashes ? Do we pay savage hordes to commit the atrocities which the greatest of your orators has denounced in the Parliament of Great Britain ?

CLINTON (*very angry*).

Enough, Captain, enough..... Here is General Arnold himself. Let us drop the subject.

SCENE II.

(*Enter Arnold*).

ARNOLD.

Excuse me, Your Excellency, for entering so abruptly, but a most pressing affair has brought me to you. (*Recognizes Eva*). If I mistake not, this is Miss Parker.

CLINTON.

Yes, General, and this is Captain Madison. (*Arnold offers his hand to Eva. She refuses to take it*).

EVA.

Never, General. There is but one way of repairing your fault. Surrender yourself to those whom you have betrayed, and save the life of Major Andre. |

ARNOLD.

Really, your love for Major Andre has affected your reason.

CLINTON.

I have hinted as much to Miss Parker.

EVA (*in great distress*).

I have reason enough left to understand and proclaim that the betrayal of West Point will be the eternal disgrace of the traitor, and the shame of the man who purchased him.

CLINTON.

Miss Parker !

EVA.

.....And that both will bear the responsibility of Major Andre's death.....General, rejoice, you cause the death of a man who was always ready to sacrifice his life for you and the British army, and you get in exchange a man who, for money, will betray you to-morrow, as he has betrayed his countrymen. (*Eva retires towards the door*).

ARNOLD (*to Madison who also retires*).

I say, Captain, what would you do to me, not if I surrendered myself, which is absurd, but if I were made prisoner ?

MADISON (*excited*).

We would cut off the limbs that have received wounds in the service of our country, and the rest of the carcass would be hanged ! (*Exeunt Eva and Madison*).

SCENE III.

CLINTON AND ARNOLD.

ARNOLD.

What are they after ?

CLINTON.

They want to exchange Major Andre for you, General.

ARNOLD.

A nice idea!

CLINTON.

I have rejected it, but, General, I will confess that I should not have undertaken this business had I foreseen the fate of poor Andre.

ARNOLD.

It is true, Sir Henry, that I have not given you what I promised, but let me have the chance to show my zeal for the British cause and you shall be satisfied with me. I am as much interested as Your Excellency to revenge the failure at West Point and the death of Major Andre.

CLINTON.

I have already thought of despatching you to Virginia, General. Come with me to consent Admiral Ronney on the subject. (*Exunt*).

TABLEAU VII.

(*Washington, Green, Knox, Lafayette, Hamilton, Talmadge, together at headquarters, Tappan, 2nd October, about 11 a. m.*)

WASHINGTON.

No news yet from Captain Madison.

HAMILTON.

No, but he will arrive before the stroke of noon if he is alive.....I hear a sound.....It is perhaps he.....(*Looks through the door.*) It is he.

(*Enter Madison covered with dust.*)

WASHINGTON.

What news, Captain?

MADISON.

Lord Clinton refuses General.

WASHINGTON.

What is to be done, gentlemen? Shall the sentence of the Court be enforced or set aside? I know, that the release of Major Andre would be popular in the army and I have no personal motive to desire the death of this young man, but do the interests of our cause and the laws of war authorise us to liberate a man who is condemned as a spy? (*Letter brought in, Hamilton hands it to Washington who opens it*). It is from Major Andre (*Reads*) "Buoyed above the terror of death by the consciousness of a life devoted to honorable pursuits, and stained with no action that can give me remorse, I trust that the request I make to Your Excellency at this serious period and which is to soften my last moments, will not be rejected. Sympathy toward a soldier will surely induce Your Excellency, and a military tribunal, to adapt the mode of my death to the feelings of a man of honor. Let me hope, Sir, that if aught in my character impresses you with esteem toward me, if aught in my misfortunes marks me as the victim of policy and not of resentment, I shall experience the operation of these feelings in your breast by being informed that I am not to die on a gibbet." (*All sad*).

WASHINGTON.

Gentlemen, your opinion, if you please?

GREENE.

Although it may appear cruel to refuse Major Andre not only the liberty which he no longer expects, but even the request contained in this letter, yet I am of opinion that we cannot set aside the sentence of the court martial without declaring, contrary to the confession of Major Andre himself, that he did not play the spy when he penetrated within our lines, under disguise, to negotiate the most infamous treason that was ever perpetrated. It would establish a dangerous precedent.

KNOX.

That is also my opinion.

LAFAYETTE.

And mine.

WASHINGTON.

(*To Hamilton*) Colonel, give orders for the execution of the

sentence, and you, gentlemen, (*to Talmadge and Madison*) who have so sincere a friendship for Major Andre, go and prepare him for his fate, but do not acquaint him with the result of this letter. The hope of a favorable reply will soothe him up to the last moment. (*Exeunt Talmadge and Madison*).

WASHINGTON.

Let us go and have the troops put under arms. (*Exeunt*).

TABLEAU.

Tappan Prison.—The 76 Stone House.—Two American Officers (Lieutenant and Ensign), with drawn swords.—Major Andre.

SCENE I.

Andre having received his regimentals from New York, has finished dressing. His servant, an English soldier, attending him is weeping.

ANDRE (*to the servant*).

Leave me until you can show yourself more manly (*Exit servant*).

SCENE II.

Andre seated at his table draws a pen and ink portrait of himself Enter Madison.

ANDRE (*rising to meet Madison*).

It is you, my dear friend? Oh! let me thank you for all you have done for me. How can I testify my gratitude?

MADISON (*feelingly*).

Do not speak so I have done for you only what you would have done for me. Only, you would perhaps have been more successful

ANDRE.

I know all. Let us say no more about it. You see I am prepared for what is going to happen. I have dressed for the occasion. But Miss Eva, who has given such a striking proof of her love, how is she?

MADISON.

As you know, she came with me to see Sir Henry Clinton, and she was very strong so long as she retained a hope, but when I left her she was downcast, indeed.

ANDRE.

What a noble young lady! Captain, souls like hers make us cling to life (*walk up and down*). My dear Madison, I would write her at least one little word. Will you deliver it?

MADISON.

Yes, Major (*Andre writes a few lines which he hands to Madison*).

ANDRE (*reflecting*).

My dear mother and my dear sisters! what a blow for them! (*He is absorbed and rises*). Madison, pardon, but I owed a last thought to those I love and who have loved me.

MADISON.

And they are so many!

ANDRE.

Yes, in my brief career, I have met with many noble souls, many generous hearts and the last are now the least (*saying which he gives his hand to Madison*). Madison, there is one thought which distresses me. It is that Sir Henry reproaches himself with my death. But I have written to sooth, him and to let him know that I alone am guilty, because in penetrating your lines and disguising myself, I contravened his express orders. This letter will set him at ease. Madison, is it generally allowed that, in acting as I did, I was actuated only by honorable motives?

MADISON.

Not a soul doubts it.

ANDRE.

I am satisfied, Captain. Will you allow me to give a last stroke to this portrait..... Here, (*showing it*) how do you like it?

MADISON.

But it is your own likeness. You drew this without a looking glass? (*aside*) and at such a moment.

ANDRE.

(*Drawing*). Oh! I know myself well. (*finishing sketch and giving it to Madison*). It is for you, will you accept it?

MADISON.

I am unworthy of this token of friendship.

ANDRE.

Please accept it for my sake. (*Madison takes portrait. Enter Hamilton. Andre greets him with affection*).

SCENE III.

ANDRE.

Well, Colonel, do you fetch me an answer to my last letter?

HAMILTON.

(*Embarrassed*) Alas! No, Major.

ANDRE.

Oh! I entertain no doubt that the Commander-in-Chief will grant me this last favor. He has been so kind to me since I have been here. I have written to Sir Henry Clinton that I received every attention from General Washington and his officers. I quite understand he could not set aside the sentence of the Court Martial. Hence, as you know, I have never asked but one thing. That was to die the death of a soldier.

MADISON.

Hamilton and Madison strive to hide their emotion. A noise at the door. Enter Officers and soldiers in two rows.

ANDRE.

I understand, gentlemen. I am ready. (*He starts holding Madison and officer by the arm,—the scaffold might be seen by Andre in the distance. Seeing the scaffold, he steps back a little*).

MADISON.

Why, this emotion, Sir ?

ANDRE.

I am reconciled to my death, but I detest the mode (*Recovering*)..... It will be but a momentary having. (*After advancing a few steps further, he turns and says*) : I pray you to bear me witness that I meet my fate like a brave man.

ACT III.

EIGHT TABLEAU.

(*Mr. Parker in full dress in his study. Is reading newspaper.*)

PARKER.

Just as I suspected. The object of Washington in feigning the siege of New York lately, was to withdraw the attention of General Clinton, and send his troops down to Virginia without being molested. (*Reads.*) "The French fleet has reached the mouth of York river".... So that Cornwallis, who boasted of cornering Lafayette, and who declared with confidence : "*The boy will not escape me,*" Cornwallis is blockaded at Yorktown and hemmed in on all sides. I shouldn't wonder that Cornwallis were forced to surrender to the combined forces of Washington and Lafayette. The issue of the war will probably be decided before Yorktown..... I shouldn't be sorry to see the war come to an end, for things are beginning to look bad..... Nelly's marriage with Chambers would suit me now better than ever.... But so far from loving him, she has declined his offer and he is much put out about it.

SCENE II.

(*Enter Nelly in ball costume.*)

NELLY.

All the guests are arriving, father. I have come to fetch you.

PARKER.

One moment, Nelly. You are aware that I give this entertainment for the purpose of pleasing the officers of the British

army, with whom it is more than ever my interest to be on good terms. I trust that you and Eva will do your best to be amiable..... Poor Eva! Will she lay aside her weeds to night? and shake off some of that sadness which has overwhelmed her since the death of Major Andre?

KELLY.

Yes, father, she will, and I think you will be satisfied with her. She is receiving at this moment and is charming.

PARKER.

Another word, Nelly. I have received a letter from Chambers. He is very much annoyed. I regret that you should offend a man of whom I stand in need..... and who may do me an injury.

NELLY.

Come, dear papa, as you desire that I should be in good spirits, do not refer to that man.

SCENE III.

(Enter Eva.)

EVA.

What are you doing here? You are expected in the drawing room.

(Parker looks at Eva admiringly.)

PARKER.

How handsome, my dear! I am delighted! *(Kisses Eva, on forehead)*. Let us go. *(Exeunt)*.

TABLEAU IX.

(Parker's drawing room. Arcade in background opening on wide corridor, window and glass door opening on the garden. A dozen of couples, all almost officers of the British army with wives and young ladies promenading through drawing room, corridor and garden. Two young officers, both Captains, awaiting the return of Nelly and Eva.)

SCENE I.

(A Colonel and wife stop the two young men).

COLONEL.

Gentlemen, you are impatiently expecting your two charming partners. The fact is that the Misses Parker were never so charming and so beautiful. Really if I were younger.

WIFE.

Colonel, you are young enough..... too young even.

COLONEL.

You flatter me, my dear. But I was about to say that if younger, and if I had not had the happiness of marrying you, I should not allow two such beautiful young ladies to be snatched from my grasp by any body, especially not by rebels. *(M. Parker and daughters enter. The two young officers give their arms to Nelly and Eva respectively, and the guests come forward to salute M. Parker).*

SCENE II.

COLONEL.

I must thank you, Mr. Parker, for having had the happy idea of giving us a ball before our departure for Yorktown, where we are going to make the rebels dance to the sound of cannon.

PARKER.

Take care, Colonel, that you don't arrive after the ball is over.

COLONEL.

No danger. Washington always takes his time.

PARKER.

This time, however, Colonel, he seems to have marched fast enough to get there before you.
(Several couples come up).

AN OFFICER.

Mr. Parker, the ladies ask that the dance begin.

PARKER.

Very well. The music is ready. Take your places.

SCENE III.

(*The dance. Oddities of the old Colonel during the dance at the option of the actor*).

SCENE IV.

(*Promenade. Nelly and partner engaged in earnest conversation*)

OFFICER, (*aloud*).

Evidently, Miss Parker, you are always a rebel. (*Nelly withdraws her arm seemingly annoyed*). You rebel against the admiration and love of every one except Captain Madison.

NELLY.

Ah ! that is better.

OFFICER.

But alas ! If it is true all the same.

NELLY.

As you are not asking me a question, there is no need of my replying.

OFFICER.

Do you know, Mr. Parker, that I have half a notion sometimes of going over to the enemy, in the hope of becoming more agreeable to you.

NELLY.

Oh, now. Although, as an American, I am proud of a cause which produces so many great deeds and reveals so many noble characters, I cannot help seeing what is good on your side also..... But it is warm here. Let us walk toward the garden, if you please, Captain. (*Exeunt*).

SCENE IV.

(*Eva and partner enter drawing room conversing. They stop*).

EVA.

Well, I am bound to acknowledge, Major, that my sympathies for the Royalist cause diminish every day, and such expeditions as General Arnold has just made in Rhode Island, the acts of cruelty perpetrated by his men are not calculated to help your cause. How can you excuse firing through windows on defenceless women and children? Would you have cause to complain if the Colonists did the same thing in retaliation?

MAJOR.

Since you mention the name of Arnold, I would remind you, Miss Parker, that though we purchase traitors, we do not respect them..... As to excesses committed in war time, they are chargeable to both sides. Have not the rebels to reproach themselves with the death of Major Andre?

EVA.

(Pale and deeply moved). I do not share your opinion, Major. I believe that Sir Henry Clinton is more responsible for the death of Major Andre than General Washington..... But let us not continue this subject. *(Still affected)*.

MAJOR.

Oh! I beg a thousand pardons, Miss Parker, for having revived so cruel a reminiscence.

NELLY.

(Alone). Eva, come with us to enjoy the cool air of the garden.

MAJOR.

Do you wish to go? *(Eva nods approvingly. Both go to garden and Eva stands beside Nelly)*.

NELLY.

What a lovely evening!

TWO OFFICERS.

Delightful!

EVA.

I don't like to stop here.

NELLY.

Come, dear, another presentiment ?

(A shot. Eva falls in Nelly's arms. Running in from all sides. Eva transported to sofa in drawing room. She is insensible.)

M. PARKER.

(In despair). A doctor ! A doctor ! (Meantime efforts made to revive Eva. Doctor arrives.)

SCENE V.

DOCTOR.

(Feeling Eva's pulse and examining wound). The ball has pierced her heart. She is dead !

TABLEAU X.

Madison walking in a retired part of American Camp. He opens a black-bordered letter. This scene to be represented in front of the stage).

MADISON.

A mourning letter ! who can be dead ? *(Reading signature. From Nelly ! (Runs eye over paper) But I must be mistaken..... It is an hallucination. (Passing his hand over his forehead). Eva assassinated..... At a ball ! oh ! this is terrible !..... Poor Eva what a noble character ! what admirable devotion !..... And the author of the crime ! Let me see what she says (reads on). It is supposed to have been an act of vengeance on a Royalist family by the rebels, it is not my opinion..... "I dare not say it, but something makes me suspect that we know the assassin well and that he mistook his victim." (Reflects. Perhaps he mistook his victim ?..... Could it be he ?..... (Rises excited) Oh ! If I were there to assist in his discovery... But no, this suspicion is absurd..... And yet... the wretch... (An American soldier of ugly appearance and hypocritical mien comes up while Madison speaks.)*

MADISON.

Ha ! it is you, Frank.

FRANK.

Excuse me, Captain, perhaps I disturb you.

MADISON.

No. I have a piece of bad news to give you. Miss Eva Parker is dead.

FRANK.

Dead !

MADISON.

Murdered.

FRANK.

Murdered !..... By whom ?

MADISON.

That is not known.

FRANK.

Such a fine young lady !

MADISON.

Frank, while you were at M. Parker's, did you know Mr Chambers !

FRANK.

Yes, Captain..... oh I knew him by sight only. I did not like his face.....

MADISON.

Why so ?

FRANK.

Well, there was something about him (*makes signs with hands*) you know what I mean.

MADISON.

Had you any special reason for not trusting him.

FRANK.

Oh ! No. I would not say anything against him. I have my own faults and don't care to speak of those of others.

MADISON.

When did you leave New York for our army ?

FRANK.

Why, about a month ago.

MADISON.

Was Mr. Chambers in the habit of visiting at Mr. Parker's then?

FRANK.

Yes, Captain, he went there pretty often, but I think Miss Nelly loved another better than him.

MADISON.

Who was that?

FRANK (*looks askance at Madison.*)

A British officer, a fine looking man. When I went out with Miss Parker, we met him often.

MADISON (*controlling himself, looks at his watch.*)

I must go to the headquarters of the regiment. I will see you again. (*Exit.*)

FRANK.

Aha! The blow went home. For the first time I haven't done badly. The part I have got to play is rather important—give aid and comfort to the Royalist army and make out that it is Madison who does so. Luckily I am to get the rewardI have thrown already two letters to the British picketsThey contained useful informations. But now General Washington must be made to believe it was Madison writes them, or at least suspect him. (*Draws unsealed letter from his pocket, opens and looks at it.*) I'll bet no man could imitate his handwriting better. If Chambers saw this, he would be delighted. It is true that he gave me lessons for a whole month.....But enough.....This is the place where General Washington is in the habit of passing. I will throw the letter on his path (*throws it.*) All right.....Mr. Chambers get your money-ready. (*Exit.*)

(*Washington and Hamilton coming up.*)

WASHINGTON.

It is singular. But of late the enemy seems to know all about our plans. Have you not noticed this, Colonel?

HAMILTON.

Yes, General. It is clear that the enemy has spies among us.

WASHINGTON (*trampling letter under foot.*)

What is this? A letter? (*Hamilton picks it up and gives it to Washington.*) A letter addressed to Lord Cornwallis? Perhaps it comes just in time (*opens it*) No signature..... Let us see what it says.....(*Reads and grows serious.*) Information on the siege works which we have just completed, and what we intend to do shortly. It even announces the assault on the redoubts to morrow Spying again!..... Ah! it seems the royalists have not given up the trade..... But now did this letter come here

HAMILTON.

Probably the man who wrote it lost it before he could send it.

WASHINGTON.

Of course. Then we must find out who was here this morning, and try to identify the writing..... Look, Colonel, whether you cannot make it out.

HAMILTON (*looks in surprise but says nothing*).

WASHINGTON.

Well! Tell me what you think.

HAMILTON.

Pardon me, General. I was struck with the similarity of the penmanship, but it is impossible, it cannot be he. It would be too bad.

WASHINGTON.

Unfortunately, we have had too many proofs that our confidence in any man should not prevent our suspecting, or at least, making inquiries about him. Tell me then, Colonel, what it is that strikes you.

HAMILTON.

Well, Sir, that is exactly Captain Madison's writing.

WASHINGTON.

Madison! Come now, that is too much.

HAMILTON.

Just what I said, General.

WASHINGTON.

Still, the mystery must be cleared up. Please tell Captain Madison to report to headquarters at once. I will expect him.

TABLEAU XI.

Washington, Lafayette, Hamilton entering at headquarters. Enter Madison. Salutes. The scene represents a tent.

SCENE I.

MADISON.

General, you have ordered me here.

WASHINGTON.

Yes, Captain. Do you sometimes stroll along the road leading to York river?

MADISON.

I do, General.

WASHINGTON.

Were you there this morning?

MADISON.

I was, General.

WASHINGTON.

(Anxious). Is this your writing?

MADISON.

If it is not mine, it looks very much like it.

WASHINGTON.

Please read, and tell us if you wrote this letter.

MADISON.

(Reading address). To Lord Cornwallis! (Stupified. As he reads, his face becomes distorted with confusion and indignation). No, General, I did not write this letter, (Speaks with strong sharp emphasis.)

WASHINGTON.

I thought so, but can you help us in solving this mystery?

MADISON.

I cannot, General.

WASHINGTON.

(Gently). You quite understand, Captain, that in spite of our confidence in your loyalty, it was our duty to demand an explanation of you, and ask you to assist us in discovering the spies who for several days back have been giving information to the enemy. Do you not suppose that somebody has been counterfeiting your handwriting?

MADISON.

Yes, General, that is probable.

WASHINGTON.

Then go, Captain, and try to discover the spy who is thus plotting against us and you.

MADISON.

I will do so, General, not to disculpate myself, or avert suspicions from myself, but in the interest of our cause. It is the first time, General, that I have been suspected. It will be the last. Perhaps I have not done enough for our common cause, have not exposed my life often enough. It is true I have only one life. I ought to have two. *(Great noise around headquarters, cries of "we want to go in, we want to see the Commander-in-Chief, we want to see Ca[ptain] Madison)."*

WASHINGTON.

(To Hamilton). Go and see what is the matter.

(Hamilton goes to door and returns).

HAMILTON.

General, it is Captain Madison's men who ask to come in.

WASHINGTON.

Lét them in. (*Enter men.*)

Well, boys, what do you want?

SERGEANT (*Embarrassed.*)

We heard, General, that our Captain was under arrest; charged with being a spy. We come to tell you, General, that it can't be, that it is not true. Even if 20, 30, 50 men said it was true, we would all say it is not true, that it's a lie, because we know our Captain, General. (*All applaud, Frank louder than the rest.*)

WASHINGTON.

You have been misinformed, my men. I never dreamed of arresting your brave Captain, whom I esteem as much as you do, but my duty and the interest of our cause obliged me to ask him some explanations on an important matter. There are spies among us, boys. There is one who sends information to the enemy by forging the writing of your Captain. I rely upon you to find out the wretch.

ALL.

We will, we will. (*Frank again above the others.*)

A SOLDIER.

Woe be to him if we lay our hands on him.

FRANK.

Yes, I will -kin him alive.

WASHINGTON.

Very well, my friends. You may go now. I know you. You are all brave boys. Captain Madison's company has proved what it can do. Be easy about him and help us to discover the spy. (*Exeunt.*)

TABLEAU XII.

(Madison walking in place where letter was found, pensive and anxious.)

MADISON.

What a humiliation ! Ah ! if I [thought that I was really suspected, I could not stand it. Woe be to the man who showed me that he doubted my loyalty. I would hold him to an account, were he Major, Colonel or General. (*Put his hand on the hilt of his sword.*) But what is the use of getting excited. There is a nobler way of defying my adversary. It is to dare him to follow me to night in the storming of the redoubt, to brave death as I will for the honor and success of our army Oh ! betray my flag, the glorious flag for which I have sacrificed so much, desert the cause for which I could shed the last drop of my blood, at the moment when it is about to triumph ! No, no one believes it, and the brave men of my company have just proved that no one believes it..... But the Commander-in-chief could not do otherwise than ask me for information, for the appearances were certainly against me. It is my handwriting.... Who is the wretch that would disgrace me ? And who is the devil that is egging him on ? Ah ! I suspect him, but the proof.....! the proof.....! I am on the spot where the letter was found. Let me remember what took place..... When I left here, Frank remained..... and the Commander-in chief must have passed a few moments later. Frank ! I do not like his face and his way, but how can I suppose that he could imitate my writing. He is too silly for that. And yet..... (*The men of the company rush in pushing Frank before them. They call Captain Madison.*)

MADISON.

What is it, my boys ?

SERGEANT.

Captain, here is the spy..... Noticing that we suspected him, he tried to escape and we captured him just as he was about to leap into the British trenches. We searched him from head to foot and this is what we found. (*They give Madison several papers.*)

MADISON (*examining papers*).

A letter from me ! Copies or rather facsimiles of the

letter !.... Ah ! ah ! I understand.... It is not all.... the beginning of a letter giving information to the enemy.... There is no longer any doubt.... It is he.... But, you rascal, who had sufficient empire over you to drive you to such infamy ?

FRANK.

Nobody.

MADISON.

Liar ! But this is sufficient.... Thanks, my friends, a thousand thanks, for this mark of devotedness. Thanks for believing in my loyalty and having so well defended the honor of your Captain. Your conduct does not surprise me, for men who fight so well have noble hearts. Go, my friends, take this man to headquarters. It is only just that you should yourselves show the Commander-in-chief the result of your search. (*Returns papers to Sergeant who goes out with his men shouting : Hurrah for Madison.*)

TABLEAU XIII.

(*The scene represents a tent.*)

(*Washington and principal officers of American and French armies dining together at headquarters, 14 october 1781.*)

WASHINGTON.

This has been a good day. Our artillery has played havoc within the enemy's trenches. The engineers report that there is a breach in the palisades. What do you think, General ? (*To Rochambeau.*)

ROCHAMBEAU.

I think that the prize is now within our reach.

BARON VIOMENIL.

I thought as much two days ago, but you were right, General, and I seize the opportunity to ask your pardon for the impatience which had well high cost us dear, since, to convince me, you so heroically reconnoitred the position at the risk of your life.

WASHINGTON.

Do you decide that we shall storm the redoubts to night

at the two principal points? (*Great enthusiasm and a general cry, "Yes," "Yes." Baron Viomenil loud above the rest.*)

WASHINGTON.

As the carrying of these two redoubts will decide the fate of Yorktown, and probably hasten the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, we must adopt every measure to ensure success. To rouse the emulation of the men, we have determined that the redoubt on the left shall be assailed by the French under the command of the Baron Viomenil, and the redoubt on the right by the Americans under the Marquis de Lafayette. Do these dispositions meet with your approval? (*Yes, yes.*)

BARON VIOMENIL.

(*Boastingly.*) The left redoubt being the best defended and most difficult to capture, it was right to allot it soldiers who are old in the service and more experienced in that species of attack.

LAFAYETTE.

(*Spiritedly.*) It is true, Baron, that we are young soldiers, and hence we have only one way of acting in such cases. We discharge our pieces and charge bayonets. (*Applause.*)

BARON.

Believe me, Marquis, that I had not the slightest intention of impugning the valor of the American troops.

LAFAYETTE.

And as for me, Baron, be persuaded that, as a Frenchman, I will rejoice to-morrow if the soldiers of France cover themselves with glory, as usual, but it is natural that I should stand by that army with which I have fought for five years and which has given me so many proofs of its prowess.

WASHINGTON.

Well, Marquis, you must rejoice now after so long wishing to see the French and American armies fighting side by side for a grand blow. It is true that it was New York which you wished to attack, but the capture of Yorktown will be not less momentous to our cause.

LAFAYETTE.

Yes, General, I am overjoyed, and I thank you for having effected the result which I desired while curbing my impatience and forcing me to remain in Virginia.

WASHINGTON.

And I congratulate you, Marquis, on having conducted your campaign so ably as to force Cornwallis, who was pursuing you, and was sure of capturing you, to take refuge in Yorktown, where he will himself be captured. I thank you for having invited me to share your triumph.

LAFAYETTE.

Believe me, General, that it was not generosity, but necessity which induced me to call in your assistance and that of the fleet. It was the only means of success.

MARQUIS ST. SIMON.

As we are speaking of the Marquis de Lafayette, let me recall a circumstance which redounds to his honor. In our impatience to come to these quarters, and in consideration of the pressure laid upon us by the Admiral Count de Grasse, who stated that he could wait no longer, we did all we could to prevail upon the Marquis de Lafayette to attempt the storming of Yorktown before the arrival of the Commander in Chief. We represented to him the glory that would accrue to himself and to France from an enterprise likely to put an end to the war. The Marquis declined on the ground that vainglory should not make a commander engage in a murderous combat when, by waiting a few days, he could make sure of success and spare the blood of his soldiers. He added : “ If our cause succeeds, it matters little to me how and by whom that object is accomplished.” (*Applause*). Admiral de Grasse yielded and we waited (*applause*).

WASHINGTON.

Gentlemen, the Marquis de Lafayette has so accustomed us to admire his courage, talent and generosity that nothing can take us by surprise on his part.

LAFAYETTE.

After spending five years in your school, General, my only regret is that I am not more perfect than I am.

HAMILTON (*rising with glass in hand*).

Let us settle the question by drinking the health of Generals Washington and Lafayette, and declaring that they are each worthy of the other, worthy of the great nations which they represent and that a cause which boasts of such leaders must triumph. When the American people, free and independent, will celebrate the memory of the authors of their liberty, they will not forget to associate in their gratitude the names of Washington and Lafayette, and offer them the same homages, the same garlands. (*Good, good*).

(*Noise at the door. A message sent in to Washington*)

WASHINGTON.

Let them in (*Enter Madison's men with Frank*).

SERGEANT.

General, here is the spy! He wanted to escape when he saw that he was suspected, but we arrested him and found these papers upon him. (*Hands papers to Washington who examines them and shows them to officers*).

WASHINGTON.

Very well, my men. Conduct your prisoner to the guard-house. To-morrow he will be tried, but before going, fetch me your Captain.

SERGEANT.

You see, General, it hurt us to see our Captain in trouble and we said: "We must find out the cause of all this" and we how found it.

WASHINGTON.

What you have done is right and worthy of your Captain. (*Madison enter and salutes*).

WASHINGTON.

Your hand, Captain. I was certain you would come forth triumphant from this business which has no other effect than to increase my confidence in you, and giving your company an opportunity of showing their devotion to you. Captain, I apologize for having caused you pain, even a moment. Ask me what you like and, if in my power, I will grant it.

MADISON.

Well, General, I will ask you only one favor. It is to put my company in the van-guard to night in assailing the redoubt. (*Soldiers applaud*).

WASHINGTON (*to Lafayette and Hamilton*).

Gentlemen, do you consent?

LAFAYETTE AND HAMILTON.

We do.

WASHINGTON.

I too consent with pleasure. (*Soldiers shout and exeunt*). Now, gentlemen, I think it is time to send the troops forward. Every man to his post. I am confident that the combat will be brief and the victory decisive.

TABLEAU XIV.

Yorktown in the background on the James.—Two redoubts defended by ditches, abattis and palisades.—The American and French troops take their positions.—Hamilton's regiment in advance with Madison and his company in front rank.—Lafayette, Lincoln and staff officers in rear.

The French opposite the right redoubt under the command of William de Deux Poits, General Rochambeau, Baron Viomenil, and French staff in rear. On a slight eminence Washington superintending the operations surrounded by several members of his staff. Fine moonlight.

ROCHAMBEAU (*to the Gatinais regiment in the trenches*)

My children, I will need your services to-night. I hope you will not forget that we have fought together in this brave regiment of "Auvergne sans tache."

A SOLDIER.

General, we are willing to die to a man if you will restore us our old name of "Royal Auvergne."

ROCHAMBEAU.

I promise you.

(At 11 p. m. the signal of attack is given; the Americans rush first to the assault in two columns. They do not give the sappers time to cut down the palisades. They tear them out and break them with their hands, throw themselves into the ditch and begin to scale the redoubt. The British fire, several American soldiers fall, among them the color guard of Madison's company. Madison seizes the flag, puts it between his teeth, strikes down with his bayonet a soldier who was about to shoot him as he reached the parapet, leaps into the redoubt and plants his colors, shouting "Hurrah for Independence." The American troops answer and follow him. Almost at the same time Hamilton sets his foot on the shoulders of a soldier, scales the parapet, jumps into the redoubt, and grasps the hand of Madison. The British lay down their arms, and the shouts redouble.)

LAFAYETTE (*in the redoubt.*)

Who will carry a despatch to Marshal Viomenil? The attempt is perilous.

MADISON.

I will.

LAFAYETTE.

No. You have done enough for one day.

COLONEL BARBER.

I will, General.

LAFAYETTE.

Well. Go and tell the Marshal that the Americans are in their redoubt and hope that the French will soon be in theirs.

(Barber bears the message passing through the enemy's fire. He is struck once, falls, but recovers and finishes his journey.)

BARBER (*to Lafayette.*)

The French Marshal replies that he has not reached his redoubt yet, but will do so within five minutes.

(The French at this moment had got as far as the palisades, marching in utter silence, and exposed to a galling fire. Bancroft says: "The abatis and palisades, being well preserved, stopped them for some minutes and cost them many men.

So soon as the way was cleared by the carpenters, the storming party threw themselves in the ditch, broke through the pass and mounted the parapet." William De Deux Ponts, who had fallen, rises, mounts the parapet followed by several officers, several of whom are wounded and fall. De Deux Ponts gives the order to leap into the redoubt, where the British defend themselves fighting behind hogsheds. De Deux Ponts springs into the redoubt, crying: "Vive le Roi," and the French repeat the shout. The British surrender. Enthusiastic cries from both redoubts. At the sight of Washington advancing, French and Americans cry "Hurrah for Washington, hurrah for Lafayette." Washington salutes and exclaims to the officers about him :

WASHINGTON.

I never was so proud of being an American.

TABLEAU XV.

The vanguard of the French and American armies in front of Yorktown, after the taking of the redoubts, in a wooded spot, French and American soldiers go and come and fraternize. This scene may be presented in front of the heater.

SCENE I.

A FRENCH SOLDIER TO AN AMERICAN SOLDIER.

You make one bargain..... You give to me tobacco ... Me give wine (*Showing a cup of wine.*)

THE AMERICAN.

All right. (*They exchange, the American rubs his belly.*) Good, good.

(*The Frenchman fills his pipe and smokes.*) Good tobacco.

(*Another French soldier to his companion.*) Demande à l'américain pourquoi on ne se bat pas aujourd'hui ?

THE AMERICAN.

What ?

THE FRENCHMAN.

Why we not fight to day ?

THE AMERICAN.

Because the British General has asked a suspension of arms for 24 hours. He wants to surrender.

SEVERAL FRENCHMEN.

Qu'est-ce qu'il dit ?

1ST FRENCHMAN.

He says that the English General wants to capitulate. (*Sensation.*)

2ND FRENCHMAN.

Il ferait mieux de se décider immédiatement. Il faut toujours bien que ça finisse par là.

AMERICAN.

What ?

FRENCH SOLDIER.

He says better for the English to surrender immediately because he cannot escape.

THE AMERICAN.

You will learn to speak English first-rate if you stop with us.

THE FRENCHMAN.

Oh ! no, not remain here. Nice country, but no French womans. The French pas capable de vivre without womans.

THE AMERICAN.

What ?

ANOTHER AMERICAN.

He says Frenchmen can't live without women.

1ST AMERICAN.

There are women here also.

FRENCHMAN.

Yes, but they are too stiff and they don't understand French.

THE AMERICAN.

You will not leave us before you have conquered our independence.

THE FRENCHMAN.

I suppose not, since we come for that. But it will go quick..... English..... (*hesitates*) pas capable not able to fight with French.

THE AMERICAN.

The French soldiers are brave and good. They are all like General Lafayette.

SECOND FRENCHMAN.

Qu'est-ce qu'il dit de Lafayette?

THE FRENCHMAN.

Il dit que les soldats Français sont tous braves et bons comme le Général Lafayette. (*Frenchmen applaud*).

THE FRENCHMAN.

You Americans fight well for young soldiers ; your General Washington great man..... head good and heart..... (*Making gesture showing a big heart. American laugh and applaud*).

THE AMERICAN.

What is the name of the French officer who was wounded in mounting on the parapet the first?

THE FRENCHMAN.

Charles de Lameth.

THE FRENCHMAN.

Who is the American who... (*making sign with his hand ...* put the American flag on the redoubt?.....

THE AMERICAN.

Captain Madison.

THE FRENCHMAN.

Never saw a better officer even in the French army. (*Americans laugh*).

SCENE II.

(Enter Washington with several French and American officers. Soldiers hush and salute respectfully.)

WASHINGTON, *(to Rochambeau)*.

Well, General, I learn that Lord Cornwallis asks to surrender. He could not stand ten minutes if we assailed his entrenchments.

VIOMENIL.

He does not expect to dislodge us from there. *(Shows French in redoubt)*.

WASHINGTON.

From the sorties which they have made the British must have perceived that they could not succeed more on one side than the other.

HAMILTON.

General, you told me that you desired to see Captain Madison. Here he is.

Enter Madison who salutes.

SCENE III.

WASHINGTON *(giving his hand)*.

Captain, I congratulate and thank you in the name of the nation. You have long since deserved promotion. I make you Major.

HAMILTON *(clasping his hand)*.

You have richly won the rank, Major. I am proud to have such an officer in my regiment. *(All the officers shake hands with Madison, who withdraws.)*

WASHINGTON *(looking at his watch)*.

If Lord Cornwallis does not return an answer before an hour, we will make ready for the final assault.

VIOMENIL.

Yes, the last one. Our soldiers are beginning to grumble. They find we are going too slowly.

WASHINGTON.

Brave Frenchmen! (*Enter flag of truce preceded by trumpet. Bearer salutes and delivers despatch which is taken by an aide-de-camp and handed to Washington.*)

SCENE IV

WASHINGTON (*reading.*)

Gentlemen, Lord Cornwallis surrenders with his whole army and accepts the conditions which he himself imposed upon General Lincoln at Charleston. The British troops will file out to-day at 2 o'clock with folded colors and without the beat of drum.

LAFAYETTE.

And that the revenge may be complete, I demand that the surrender be made into the hands of General Lincoln.

WASHINGTON (*to flag of truce.*)

You can retire. I will send my reply to Lord Cornwallis. (*To his officers.*) Well, gentlemen, this is the crowning of our labors. Announce the glad tidings, and give orders to draw up the army, and have everything done in a manner worthy of the glorious event which assures the triumph of the cause for which we have struggled these five years.

TABLEAU XVI.

The French and American troops drawn up in two lines. On one side the Americans with Washington and his staff; on the other, the French with Rochambeau and his staff. Bancroft says: "The captive army approached moving slowly in column, with grace and precision. Universal silence was observed amidst the vast concourse and the utmost decency prevailed." General O'Hara ordered by Cornwallis to replace him, advanced, looking right and left, as if seeking some one. Adjutant-General Damas who had received orders to direct the capitulator's troops went forward and placed himself at O'Hara's left.

O'HARA.

Where is General Rochambeau?

DUMAS.

On our left, at the head of the French army. *O'Hara turns in that direction and offers him his sword.*

ROCHAMBEAU.

Here is General Washington (*pointing*), at the head of the head of the American army. The French army being an auxiliary on this continent, it is the American General who will give you your orders. *O'Hara turns to Washington and offers his sword.*

WASHINGTON

Never from so good a hand. Please apply to General Lincoln.

Lincoln rides forward and indicates the spot where the British troops are to lay down their arms. The garrison marches past and lays down its arms there. Several soldiers break their muskets. Colonel Abercromby covers his face when his men lay down their arms and bites at his sword.

SCENE II.

(This Scene may follow or take the place of the other according to circumstances). Twenty four British officers (in line) deliver the colors of their army to twenty four American Sergeants. Ensign Wilson, the youngest officer of the army, conduct the ceremony).

WILSON.

(To the British officers and American sergeants). Gentlemen steps forward. (The British officers hesitate and keep their places). Gentlemen, why do you not advance?

A BRITISH CAPTAIN.

We are not obliged to surrender our colors to non commissioned officers.

HAMILTON.

(Advances). Wilson, receive the colors yourself, and hand them to the sergeants. (The Standard are given to Wilson who turns them over to the sergeants.)

TABLEAU XVII.

Washington and the American officers gathered at the American head-quarters at Head-of Elk to bid farewell to Lafayette. Beginning of December 1781.

WASHINGTON.

In the name of the army, in the name of the nation, I wish you a happy return to your beautiful country and I lay at your feet the gratitude of a people who regard you as their benefactor. Congress has offered you a testimony of its gratitude, but how can we ever worthily recognize the greatness of your services? Better than any one else, I have had occasion to know and appreciate your unalterable devotion from the day that you landed on these shores to offer us the assistance of your sword and the benefit of your talents—a generosity the remembrance of which will never be sufficiently impressed on the hearts of the people of these United States. While still in the bloom of youth you tore yourself away from the embraces of a young wife worthy of your love, abandoned your country, broke all the ties that attached you to your native soil, incurred the displeasure of your Sovereign, the reproaches of your family and friends, to serve our cause at a time when it was in the most critical condition. Your noble example moved all generous souls and awakened in all hearts sentiments of enthusiasm and patriotism. How shall I recount all the great and heroic deeds which you have accomplished since your arrival among us? Which shall we most admire—your courage and ability on the field of battle, or your wisdom and prudence at the council table? Not content with exposing your life for our cause, and frequently bringing victory to our standards, you sacrificed a portion of your fortune to feed and clothe our hungry, naked soldiery. It is to you that we are indebted, in a great measure, for the assistance of those soldiers and skillful French officers who have proved in America, as they have done in Europe for centuries, that France is always the mother-land of lofty ideas and martial valor. You have crowned your career, General, by a campaign which is the admiration of all Europe, and the result of which is the capture of Yorktown and the surrender of the British army. You have given us so much and will accept nothing from us! You have expected no other reward than the triumph of our cause! If the United States should ever forget you, they will cease to deserve their freedom. And what shall I say of the marks of sym-
pa-

thy, disinterestedness and esteem which you have so often exhibited toward myself? (*Deeply moved.*) You know, General, that I loved you from the first day that we met, and that my affection has always gone on deepening. I should be distressed at parting from you did I not trust that you will return to us some day, and did I not know that, in France as in America, your services will always be at our disposal. Farewell then, General, farewell. (*Clasping his hands.*) May the prayers of a whole people waft you safely over the ocean, and may Heaven preserve you for the honor and glory of France, because you are destined to be the hero of free ion on two Continents. Be pleased to present our best wishes to Madame Lafayette on whom we implore all the blessings of existence.

LAFAYETTE.

Thanks, General, thanks, brave officers for your sympathies and kind wishes. The regret which I experience on parting from you and my brave brothers in arms is tempered by the thought that if I do not return in your midst, it will be because the cause for which we have combatted together will have triumphed. That triumph is now assured, and you are right in saying that I have never looked for any other reward. But I have received a further recompense—the memory of which will be the balm of my life—in having been honored with your friendship and confidence, General, with having lived in the intimacy of the man whose genius and virtue will be revered by future generations. It is I that must thank you, General, for having allowed my name to be linked with yours in one of the most glorious struggles the world ever saw, for having afforded me the opportunity of realizing the dreams of glory and liberty in which my childhood was cradled. Those generous aspirations, those sentiments of grandeur and independence, those masculine virtues whose ideal fascinated me, I have found them in America. I have seen armies, soldiers who deserved to found a republic, and a nation ripe for liberty. And I am convinced that the United States are destined to renew the type of the ancient republics whose glorious memory keeps alive throughout the world, the sacred fire of liberty. They will be the school, the torch of freedom throughout the world. The Declaration of Independence of the United States of America has taught nations their rights and kings their duties. It has gone around the world awaking in all souls those sentiments of honor, patriotism and manliness which are the terror of tyrants and

the strength of nations. The music of the State House bell, at Philadelphia, which, on the 4 July 1776, announced the Declaration of Independence, was the knell of the despotism, the abuses and the odious privileges which disgrace most monarchies. You have taught Europe how a people can find in the love of liberty, the heroism required to break its chains and restore to modern nations their trampled rights and to liberty the glorious charters covered with the dust of centuries. At no distant day you will complete the great work of emancipation which you have undertaken by abolishing slavery. It is the natural and necessary consequence of the principle of equality, the corner stone of that Declaration of Rights draughted by the authors of your independence. Farewell, General, farewell, noble companions in arms. Be assured that the memory of your kindness, virtues and courage will live forever in my heart. I thank you for your good wishes to me and my family.

(Shakes hands with all the officers and withdraws.)

ACT IV.

TABLEAU XVIII.

At Fraunce's Tavern, New-York, Washington with a glass of wine in hand, bidding farewell to the officers of his army, 4th December 1782.

WASHINGTON.

With a heart full of love and gratitude, I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy, as your former ones have been glorious and honorable. *(All drink.)* I cannot come to all of you to take my leave, but shall be obliged if each of you will come and take me by the hand.

(General Knox, who was nearest having turned towards him, Washington seized his hand and embraced him. All the officers followed in solemn silence.)

(Enter Major Madison.)

WASHINGTON *(giving him his hand.)*

I am glad to see you. Was your journey happy?

MADISON.

It was, General. I thank you from my heart for your kindness.

WASHINGTON.

I am pleased to have been able to serve you. (*The officers continue to bid him farewell. Washington leaves the tavern followed by his officers. Dissolving view.*)

TABLEAU.

(*Crowds of men, women and children who receive Washington with cries of "Long live Washington," "Hurrah for the Father of his Country," "Long live the great Washington!"*)

(*The scene represents Washington advancing to the barge, between two rows of soldiers, and a large crowd. When the barge is out and away from the wharf, Washington waves his hat to the crowd on the shore with a mournful air. Acclamations of the crowd assembled.*)

TABLEAU XIX.

(*A private room. Chambers entering in agitation*)

SCENE I.

CHAMBERS.

He has arrived. I saw him among the officers at Fraunce's Tavern..... He appeared in good spirits..... Doubtless he succeeded in his trip..... What shall I do now?..... (*Walks absorbed. Rap at the door. He opens. Enter young girl.*)

SCENE II.

CHAMBERS (*to girl*.)

It is you, my good Susan. How glad I am to see you! What news? Have you a letter?

SUSAN.

Yes, I have just received one.

CHAMBERS.

Let me have it. (*Takes letter and reads address.*) "To Miss Nelly Parker." (*Breaks seal and looks at signature.*) It is he.

Let us see what he says. (*Reads.*) Declarations of love..... Let us skip that. It is always the same story..... He complains of having received no letters in three months. That is no wonder, is it, Susan since she did not receive his..... Ah! this is getting interesting..... He says that he comes from the capital with good news for her father, that he will be in New-York on the 4th and at Mr Parkers, the same evening about 7 o'clock. (*Walks and reflects.*) Say, Susan, are you sure there have been no letters of late?

SUSAN.

Quite sure, Sir.

CHAMBERS

Very well. You may go. Take this (*giving her a coin. She departs. He calls her back.*) Don't forget that you have sworn to hold your tongue..... If you say a word, you know what awaits you. Look at this (*Takes pistol from his pocket and points it at her breast.*)

SUSAN.

(*Falling on her knees.*) Oh, Mr. Parker, don't kill me. I never said a word and never will.

CHAMBERS.

I only wanted to remind you of your promises. You may go now.

SCENE III.

CHAMBERS.

He will be there to night and has good news. That means that, to night, father and daughter will receive Madison as their savior. This is the result of the humiliations, the tortures which I have endured during the past five years..... The result (*lowering his voice*) of my crime! If it was to be done again, I would make no mistake. If I had foreseen that one day the old man would be ruined, I should not have been forced to such lengths to have his daughter..... But now, it is too late.... I love her.... I love her.... This love devours me, kindles my blood, goaws to the marrow of my bones. Even the crime which I committed seems to increase the fire which consumes me. Day and night, they both pursue me, one to torment me with remorse, the other with love..... This life of torture must end..... what is the use of fortune.

of this money, this gold to which I have sacrificed everything ? Now, after all that I have done and suffered, I must go on to the end. She loves another..... She in the arms of that Madison whom I abhor..... Impossible..... impossible He will arrive too late, or not arrive at all..... (*Looks at his watch*). It is four o'clock. Time presses. The old gentleman must have received the letter in which I told him that I could no longer guarantee his paper if Nelly did not consent to become my wife at once. The old man knows that I can not only ruin him, but disgrace him, for though it is true I allowed him to sign my name to certain papers, yet I can deny it..... Let us go and see what effect my letter has produced.
Exit.

TABLEAU XX.

Mr. Parker in his private apartment. Aged and careworn. Holds Chamber's letter in his hand.

SCENE I.

PARKER.

The fatal hour which I succeeded in keeping back for several months has at length arrived. The thread of destiny suspended over my head is about to break. The fortune for which I worked so hard, slips through my fingers before I have had time to enjoy it, at an age when I have no longer the strength to begin again..... Ruin..... terrible word..... and what is still more terrible, my fate is in the hands of Chambers. He knows it and abuses it..... No answer from the American authorities whom I petitioned for the recovery of my property. Abandoned by all the world..... at the mercy of the man who will save me on the sole condition that I give him my daughter against her will..... Alas ! if he held only my fortune in his hands..... But these papers to which I signed his name True, I had his authority, but what if he should deny it through vengeance ?... Oh ! it is terrible. I never believed that one could be driven to desire death, but I understand it now. It is only too true.....

(*Rap at the door. Enter Nelly who takes seat beside her father. She has a bit of embroidery in her hand.*)

SCENE II.

NELLY.

I do not disturb you, I hope, dear father.

PARKER.

Sally). On the contrary, I wanted to see you.

NELLY.

What ails you, papa? You seem more anxious than usual.

PARKER.

Alas! Nelly, I am indeed sad, broken down, as overwhelmed as when poor Eva was torn from us so suddenly. Since then, I have not as much strength to put up with misfortune. I am getting old, Nelly. I perceive that I have not the same vigor for work, and yet I will have to work more than ever, for I shall soon be destitute of means. And you, my dear Nelly, whom I should have liked to see wealthy and happy, you will be poor and wretched.

NELLY.

You do wrong, father, to distress yourself on my account, for I never thought it necessary to be rich in order to be happy, and the older I get, the better I perceive that it is not the richest who are the happiest. The strict necessary is enough. As we are only the two of us, we shall require but little. I may tell you that, foreseeing what is about to happen, I took music and drawing lessons which will enable me to gain an honorable living for both of us.

PARKER.

My dear Nelly, thanks for your courage and devotion, but things are worse than you seem to imagine. While awaiting the result of my negotiations with the American government for the recovery of my property, I was obliged to have recourse to Chambers All my attempts have failed, and Chambers informs me in this letter (*showing it*), that he must have an immediate settlement.

NELLY.

But he has no reason to drive you to the wall, no interest in precipitating your ruin. What is his object?

PARKER.

His object, his sole object is to get your hand.

NELLY (*indignant*).

That is to say, that not being able to win my heart, he must buy my hand. Oh ! father, what have I done to be subjected to such humiliation. Ask me all that you wish, father. I am ready to do anything to afford you peace and contentment. I will work night and day. I will beg even, if need be, but marry that man—do not mention it, I entreat you. Since the death of Eva, since that fatal shot which is always ringing in my ears, I cannot behold the man without terror. He frightens me. He chills my blood.

PARKER.

Your insinuations are not justifiable, Nelly. Your prejudices against Chambers make you unjust..... After all, he must love you sincerely to insist upon marrying you when he knows you are penniless. Listen, Nelly. Now, less than ever, would I force your will. In asking you to consent to this match, I did only what most parents would do in the interest of their children. At fifty, we see with other eyes than at twenty. The older we get, the more we see that the illusions of love are short-lived, that the blossoms of passion soon fade, leaving only thorns when life has not been placed above want.

NELLY.

It is possible that at fifty they appear so, but is it wise to be old before one's time, to deprive one self of those illusions which embellish the best part of our lives, giving the hope so needful amid the perils and vicissitudes of life ? Do we strip the tree of its leaves or the flower of its fragrance because the autumn will come ? Do we not rather strive to enjoy as long as possible the pleasure of spring and to ward off the cold blast of winter ?

PARKER.

Fine thoughts, beautiful sentiments, my dear Nelly, but necessity often forces us to reconcile our feelings with our interests. If I have spoken to you once more of this marriage, it is because, believing you to be abandoned by the man you loved, I thought you would have less objection to a union which would, perhaps, save our fortune.

NELLY.

It is true that Major Madison seems to have deserted me. His silence distresses me. But the American army has only just been disbanded, and is it not this very day that General Washington bids farewell to his army ?

PARKER.

It is.

NELLY (*reflecting*).

Why then is Mr. Chambers so particular in requiring my consent to-day ? Why does he press us thus ? Is not this haste suspicious ?

PARKER.

I will say no more, Nelly. As Mr. Chambers himself will soon be here, I will add only one word..... (*Deeply moved.*) I have to make a confession which I would have gladly avoided..... Not only Mr. Chambers can ruin me, he can disgrace me, if in a spirit of revenge he were capable of a wicked action. (*Hides his face in his hands.*)

NELLY (*overcome*).

Disgrace !..... oh ! dearest papa, pardon me for having driven you to so painful an avowal..... (*Reflects and masters herself.*) My dear father, I will save you at the expense of my honor, if it must be. Only I ask three days to give a final answer to Mr. Chambers. He cannot refuse me these three days of grace. (*She falls on her knees.*) Oh ! my God, grant that this sacrifice be not consummated.

PARKER.

My dear daughter, Mr. Chambers cannot refuse this. It is impossible..... Thanks for your devotion and may Heaven avert the sacrifice.

(*Noise at the door, as of people quarrelling.*)

PARKER.

(*Goes to the door, sees his negro servant under excitement.*)
*What is the matter, Tom ?

TOM.

It's a beggar, Massa. A rebel soldier who wants to get in.

NELLY.

Papa, let him come in, if you please. (*Enter soldier, badly dressed and looking wretched.*)

SCENE III.

NELLY.

What do you desire, my good man?

SOLDIER.

Very little, indeed, Miss; a few dollars only to pay my way back home. It is now going on three years since I have seen my wife and two children.

PARKER.

Where have you been all this time?

SOLDIER.

Almost all the time in Hell. (*Nelly utters a cry of horror.*)

PARKER.

In hell? What do you mean by that?

SOLDIER.

Don't you know that we gave the name of Hell to the Jersey?

PARKER.

Oh! you refer to the hulks used as prisons for the rebels.

SOLDIER.

Yes, those outrageous prisons where men were left to rot who preferred liberty to slavery.

PARKER.

I would remind you, friend, that you are speaking to a loyal servant of the king.

SOLDIER.

Oh ! excuse me, Sir. Of course, I'm out of place here.

NELLY.

My father did not tell you to leave.

PARKER.

No, but I have always mistrusted the tales of misery recited by American prisoners.

SOLDIER.

Oh ! Sir, if you had spent only 24 hours in the Jersey, you would not consider our account of the prisons as overdone.

NELLY.

Tell us in a few words what you have suffered.

SOLDIER.

Well, Miss, we were as many as a thousand at a time in the Jersey. We were allowed a breath of air during the day, but as soon as the sun disappeared, they shouted to us "down, rebels, down." Then we were huddled down to the hole. There we were squeezed in, jammed, and sometimes stuck to an unfortunate fellow laid up with small pox, or typhus, and sometimes even to a corpse. Every morning they cried out to us : "Rebels turn out your dead." The dead were picked out from among the living, sewed up in sacks and hurriedly buried on the shore. What shall I say of the air that we breathed, the water we drank, the food we ate and the clothing that we got ? Rottenness, vermin and abomination. Just to think of it makes me shudder.

NELLY. (*Moved.*)

PARKER.

Enough, enough. I am sure that if the thing were to be done again, you would not expose yourself to go back there.

SOLDIER.

Pardon me, Sir. I have suffered much. I have lost an arm,

I have often faced death, but I am happy, because our cause has triumphed, and if it were to be done again, I should act as I have acted.

NELLY.

You are a man of spirit.

SOLDIER.

You see, Miss, when one fights for the liberty of his country and has for General a man like Washington, he suffers or dies with pleasure.

NELLY.

You love General Washington, then ?

SOLDIER.

Oh, yes, Miss, it is almost as much for his sake, as for that of our country, that we fought and put up with so much. How could we refuse to suffer when we saw him suffer with us, pity our misfortunes and seek to relieve them ; when we saw him praying to God for our success. For you know, Miss, that he was seen at Valley Forge, when he thought he was alone, on his knees, praying to Heaven, in a loud voice. How could we hold back on the battle field, when we saw him going forwards in the midst of balls and bullets ? More than once he was thought to have been killed.

NELLY.

Providence needed him to accomplish a great work.

SOLDIER.

To tell the truth, Miss, I believe that there never was such a man as General Washington, and never will be.

PARKER.

Tell me, friend, where did you lose your arm ?

SOLDIER.

At Vauxhall, Sir, I was at the side of Captain Madison, another brave man.

NELLY.

(Moved). You know Captain Madison ?

SOLDIER.

Why, yes, Miss, I have been a sergeant in his company.

NELLY.

You have not seen him since, have you ?

SOLDIER.

No, but I am certain that if he is not dead, we shall hear of him again. That man is much like Washington. (*Noise at the door*).

PARKER.

It must be Chambers.

NELLY.

Some one is coming, my brave friend. I give you all I have about me, and I wish you all the happiness which you deserve. (*She give him money. Soldier thanks her and goes out by one door, and Nelly by the other. Chambers enters from back-ground*).

SCENE IV.

CHAMBERS.

Mr. Parker, you have received my letter ?

PARKER.

Yes, Sir, and it is a cruel letter. You charge dear for your services.

CHAMBERS.

Nothing for nothing, Mr. Parker. Is not that the lesson you taught me ?

PARKER (*restraining himself*).

Your pleasantry is out of place, Sir..... But let it pass You come for the answer to your letter. Here it is. Nelly does not refuse, (*Chambers brightens*), but she asks three days for an answer (*Chambers impatient*).

CHAMBERS.

These are not my conditions. I wanted an answer this very day. (*Softening*). Have I not waited and suffered long enough, Mr. Parker ? Why this delay of three days ?

PARKER.

I cannot tell..... It is Nelly's final determination and I cannot ask her to change her mind. If you love her, as you say, you cannot refuse her request. If you persisted, she might suspect your intentions.

CHAMBERS.

That's true (*aside*). Very well. I will wait. I will return in three days. (*Exit*).

PARKER.

I begin to agree with Nelly about this man. Poor Nelly ! Is it possible that, to save me, she must marry a man whom she abhors ? (*Exit*.)

TABLEAU XXI.

A public square or vacant ground set with trees.—7 o'clock p. m. Gloomy weather.—Two suspicious looking men behind the trees near a beaten footpath.—Enter Madison.—On passing near the two men a pistol shot is heard and the two rush upon him with poniards.—Struggle.—Madison succeeds in freeing himself and with a pistol shot stretches one of the assassins on the ground.—The other flies but is arrested by police.

MADISON (*to two policemen*).

Gentlemen, I acted in self defence. After firing at me, they fell upon me with dirks. Ask the man if that is not so.

PRISONER.

Yes, it is true. That is the man (*pointing to Chambers*) who made me do it.

MADISON.

An important affair calls me to Mr. Parker's, a few steps from here. If you want me, you will find me there. (*He advances to the place where Chambers lies and feels his pulse*). Take care of this man. He needs it. (*Exeunt*)

TABLEAU XXII.

Mr. Parker and Nelly in drawingroom. Both downcast.

SCENE I.

PARKER.

My dear Nelly, now that you have made the sacrifice which I demanded of you, I am distressed at having driven you to it. Poor child! But Mr. Chambers consents to wait three days.

NELLY.

The thing is not done yet, dear father. I rely on Providence, on the bounty of God.

PARKER.

Happy they who have faith!

NELLY.

And I must tell you what has just happened. While I was weeping in my room, Susan approached me and said: "Miss Nelly I am sorry to see you cry. Will you promise never to speak of what I am going to tell you?" I promised and she added, "Well, don't give up. Perhaps you will have a surprise." And then she ran away.

PARKER.

That is singular. That girl knows more than she is willing to tell. We must question her. (*Steps are heard, the door opens and Madison enters*).

SCENE II.

NELLY.

Thanks be to the Almighty! It is he (*with difficulty restraining herself*).

MADISON (*extending his hand*).

What has happened? How is it that my arrival causes such a stir?

PARKER.

Major, it is only natural that your sudden and unforeseen arrival should, under the circumstances, move Nelly.

MADISON.

But, really, you must have received the letter in which I announced my coming this evening.

NELLY.

I have received no letters from you these three months, although I wrote to you twice.

MADISON.

Why, I have received no news from you since the letter in which you spoke of certain business matters which concerned your family and which I attended to..... (*Reflecting*). But what is the meaning of all this? It is strange, mysterious.

PARKER.

Alas! We have been living in mystery for two years. Misfortune has not spared us.

MADISON.

I know it, sir, and believe me that I have felt for the troubles which have befallen your family. Oh! how often I wished I were near you to ferret out the vile assassin who snatched from you a daughter so worthy of love and admiration.

NELLY (*frightened and distracted*).

But what is the matter? Your coat is torn and there is blood on your hands.

MADISON (*embarrassed*).

Oh! Nothing, nothing at all.

NELLY.

Hide nothing from me. Tell me what has occurred

MADISON.

Well, yes, something has happened. I was attacked on arriving near here. A pistol was fired at me and the ball grazed my shoulder. Two men then fell upon me with dirks. I stretched out one of them with my pistol and the other was captured by the police.

NELLY (*agitated*).

But the man who fired at you—did you recognize him?

MADISON.

No. I thought they were two robbers, for on closing with me they put their hands in my pockets.

PARKER.

The mystery deepens. This pistol shot might have connection with that other one..... (*Rap at the door. Door opens. Enter a magistrate and his clerk; they bow.*)

SCENE III.

THE MAGISTRATE.

Mr. Parker, excuse my troubling you at this hour, but duty and the law oblige me to act. I was called, some minutes ago, to the side of a dying man. This man, who could scarcely speak, gave me to understand that he had attacked Major Madison, and that Major Madison in self defence had wounded him mortally. He added, with much difficulty, that a servant maid, by the name of Susan, could make further revelations, and he said no more.

PARKER.

The name of this man, Sir?

MAGISTRATE.

I thought I had given it. He is well known. Mr. Alfred Chambers.

PARKER AND NELLY.

Chambers!

MADISON.

I did not recognize him, but I might have known it.

MAGISTRATE.

Have you a servant by the name of Susan?

PARKER.

Yes.

MAGISTRATE.

Please call her (*M. Parker rings. Enter Susan*).

SCENE IV.

PARKER.

Susan, come here. The Magistrate wants to speak to you (*Susan trembles from head to foot*).

MAGISTRATE.

(*With dignity*). Keep cool, my girl. You will suffer no harm if you tell the truth.

SUSAN.

Oh! I will tell the truth. I will tell it, if M. Chambers don't hurt me.

MAGISTRATE.

M. Chambers is dead. You ought to know it since he was killed by Major Madison, and he told me before dying to come and question you.

SUSAN.

He is dead, that wicked man? There is no danger of his killing me? I can speak then at last.....?

MAGISTRATE.

Yes, tell us all you know, but let it be the truth and nothing but the truth. Begin (*To his clerk*). Write. (*To Susan*) What is your name?

SUSAN.

Susan Vandrick.

MAGISTRATE.

Now tell us what you know about the matter before us.

SUSAN.

(*Ingenuously*). What affair, your Honor?

MAGISTRATE.

No beating around the bush, girl. I question you in the

name of the law. Tell us what has just taken place between Major Madison and the dead man.

SUSAN.

What dead man ?

MAGISTRATE.

(*Vexed*). I just told you. The man who was killed, M. Chambers.

SUSAN.

Oh, yes, M. Chambers is dead. oh ! the bad man. He won't frighten me any more. I won't carry him the letters any more (*She weeps Mr. Parker and Nelly look at each other*).

MAGISTRATE.

(*Impatient*). I don't understand you. Will you tell me, yes or no, what you know ? did you see Mr. Chambers fire on Major Madison ?

SUSAN.

No, I saw nothing. That's not the affair that I know.

MAGISTRATE.

(*To Clerk and rising*). Write down that the witness refuses to speak. When she gets into prison she will, perhaps, consent to speak (*Susan weeps*).

MADISON.

Sir, I do not think that the girl refuses to speak. But she is troubled. Ask her what she means by that other affair.

MAGISTRATE.

I have no objection, but she is hard-headed. Tell us then what you meant by the other affair ?

SUSAN.

I meant the death of poor Miss Eva (*Weeps*)

MAGISTRATE.

What Miss Eva ?

SUSAN.

Miss Eva, the sister of Miss Nelly.

MAGISTRATE.

Well, what about that ?

SUSAN.

The dead man told me once when he was about crazy that it was he who killed her. (*Sensation. Nelly utters a cry of horror*). He told me, however, that he had made a mistake, that it was Miss Nelly he wanted to kill.

PARKER.

It is incredible !

NELLY.

The wretch ! and he asked to marry me !

MAGISTRATE.

(*To Clerk*). Write, sir, write.

SUSAN.

When Mr. Chambers said that he got furious. He took a pistol, put it to my breast and said that if ever I said a word, he would kill me. And I didn't say anything, because he would have killed me (*To Madison*). Is he really dead ? There is no danger of his coming to ?

MAGISTRATE.

Then there are the letters.

SUSAN.

You see, your Honor, I was so afraid of him that he could have made me do whatever he liked. One day, he pointed the pistol at me again, and he made me promise to fetch him all the letters that Miss Nelly sent to Mr. Madison and all that were sent to her from him. Not to be killed I fetched him all the letters these three months..... He got furious when he received the last one received to day. He seemed to have some bad plan in his head. (*Nelly overwhelmed*).

PARKER.

Oh ! It is frightful ! Enough to turn one's head. (*Rises and moves about*).

MAGISTRATE.

Is that all you know ?

SUSAN.

Yes, your Honor.

MAGISTRATE.

Very well. I will retire. Major Madison, you will please come to court to-morrow to make your deposition. M. Parker, I charge you with the custody of this young girl till to-morrow, when we shall require her presence. (*Exit with clerk*).

SCENE V.

(*Parker, Nelly and Madison silent and overcome*).

MADISON.

What a revelation of mysteries and crimes ! It was he who caused me to be arrested by the Cow-boys, he who tried to compromise me at Yorktown by making me pass for a spy.

PARKER.

I must tell you, Major, that Chambers, the monster, threatened this very day to ruin me, to disgrace me, if Nelly did not consent to become his wife forthwith. Nelly to save me, asked for a delay of three days.

NELLY.

There was something told me that Heaven would not allow the sacrifice to be fulfilled. I was not mistaken since God sent you.

MADISON.

I never had confidence in that man.

NELLY.

Nor I.

PARKER.

Yes, and you were both right major, you must pardon me, on account of the trouble of Mind in which you found us, for not having congratulated you on your brave conduct and your success during the war.

MADISON.

I thank you, Miss Nelly and Mr. Parker. But I did only my duty..... As you require rest after so many painful emotions, allow me to turn at once to another subject..... I have the honor, Mr. Parker, to ask of you the hand of Miss Nelly, will her consent. (*Nelly holds out both hands.*)

PARKER.

With pleasure this time..... But you know, of course that I am a ruined man, and that this marriage will not be so advantageous as it might have been formerly.

MADISON.

I hope I have proven that I never expected any other fortune than the love of Miss Nelly (*she looks at him fondly*). As the war is over and my country no longer needs my services, I intend to labor for its prosperity in another sphere. Would you be disposed, Mr. Parker, to give me, as you once offered, a partnership in your business?

PARKER.

Surely, Major, your demand is ironical. I can only offer you a share in my ruin.

MADISON.

Very well, Mr. Parker, we shall say no more about it. I will only show you, however, that although my demand may have been indelicate, it was not ironical. Take and read this. (*Places papers in his hands.*)

PARKER (*reading and brightening as he reads.*)

What does all this mean?..... My property restored to me..... An indemnity of £50,000 for my confiscated ships..... You are making fun of me, Major!..... It cannot be.....

MADISON.

It is all the same quite true. Read the note addressed to the war department.

PARKER (*reads on*)

“Major Madison has clearly proven the claims of Mr. Parker. I rejoice, in accomplishing an act of justice, to do a service to one of the truest and most faithful officers of my army.....”

(Signed) GEORGE WASHINGTON.”

NELLY.

Oh! how can we recognize what you have done for us?

MADISON.

By your love, Miss Nelly.

PARKER (*Beside himself with joy*).

During the past two years I came near losing my reason several times through excess of grief and anxiety. Now I fear I shall become crazy with joy. (*Embraces Nelly and presses Madison's hand*).

MADISON.

I will add that if I did not return to New-York with the army, it was because I wished first to go to the capital and have the decision of the Commander-in-Chief ratified by the war office.

PARKER.

I have one more favor to ask you, Major Madison. It is that, to fulfil the dream which I formerly had, you will consent to become my son-in-law and partner.

MADISON.

I accept on one condition—that I shall be at liberty to take up arms should my country again require my services.

PARKER.

Oh! yes, and this time if I am not too old, I will go with you..... Major Madison and Nelly, my daughter, you are both angels and I, with all my experience, am no better than an old fool. You triumph along the whole line. The love of money made Arnold a traitor, Chambers an assassin, while patriotism, devotion and all the noble sentiments which I lacked produced Washington and independence.

MADISON.

And may the American people always imitate the patriotism and the virtues of the immortal father of their independence, in order that, one hundred years hence, all nations of the earth wondering at their progress and prosperity, may exclaim: "These are the fruits of liberty!" (*At that moment a band of music passes through the street, followed by a crowd shouting "Long live Washington!" "Hurrah for Independence!"*)

PARKER (*going to window*).

What is it?

MADISON (*hastening to window with Nelly*).

It is the people acclaiming the officers of the army.

(*Some on in the crowd recognizing Madison, cries out "Hurrah for Madison!"—The crowd re-echoes the cry.—Band plays a national air*).

Apotheosis of WASHINGTON or a tableau representing LAFAYETTE offering his sword to Washington.



